

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Name your price
What's in a name? More than the price of a £1,000 election deposit, says Peter Kellner

Have a care
The ready-wrapped childminder, Baileys Morris looks at the American child-care business

One up
Can Liverpool hold on to their one-goal lead away against Benfica in Lisbon? Stuart Jones previews the match

The woman least likely Nicholas Shakespeare talks to a woman who lays claim to the British throne

Ploughshares
Jock Bruce-Gardyne on how to make money by not doing what you weren't going to do anyway

Likud loses majority in Israel

Israel's ruling Likud coalition last night lost its overall majority in the Knesset when the small Tami party broke away and said it would table a motion today calling for an early general election.

Women evicted

Council workers and women anti-nuclear protesters struggled at Greenham Common as the women were evicted from the air base's Blue Gate.

Women wait, page 3

Last hope

Lebanese leaders at the reconciliation talks in Lausanne have suggested one final night-time conference session, but this is thought unlikely to produce any concrete agreement

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BBC questions

The Warsaw correspondents of the BBC and *The New York Times* were questioned by Polish security police in connection with an investigation against a human rights lawyer

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Tube strike

London's bus and Tube workers are to strike on Wednesday next week; and confrontation seems likely on the railways over a 4 per cent pay and productivity offer

Page 2

Adams charge

Three men will appear in court in Belfast today charged with the attempted murder of Mr Gerry Adams, MP.

Adams home, page 2

YTS doubts

More than 100,000 school-leavers have chosen to remain unemployed rather than join the Youth Training Scheme and the programme's future strategy could be in doubt

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Election gloom

Few people in the guerrilla zone of rural El Salvador believe Sunday's elections will bring any improvements. In many places they may not take place at all

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Awacs sent

The United States has sent two Awacs surveillance aircraft to Egypt to combat air attacks against Sudan. Libya has been accused of raiding Omdurman last Friday

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Hospitals threat

At least two general hospitals will close and 2,000 beds be withdrawn because of the population shift away from London

Page 3

Mirror setback

Falling profits, revision of the prospectus and a continuing pension fund dispute are likely to deploy the £100m flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers.

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Leader page 13

Letters: On defence, from Lord Lewin, wags council, from Mr C. Pond and Ms E MacLennan; Budget, from Lord Roseberry. Leading articles: Miners, extradition in Ireland; Sudan.

Features, pages 8, 10 and 12. A government breakthrough in the control of industrial disputes? Bernard Levin on the siren's song; Roger Scruton, half-old-time service; Spectrum: the men who would be king; Fashion; the London look. Obituary, page 14. Mr Jan van der Post, Mr D P. Bla.

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Britain stands firm on principles at EEC summit

From Julian Haviland and Ian Murray, Brussels

A blueprint for a lasting solution to each of the most urgent problems threatening to derail the European Community was being urgently put together into the small hours of today, after an unexpectedly positive opening session.

The heads of government set senior officials to work on a draft for agreement later today, when the summit is to end.

The spokesman for President Mitterrand of France, on whose shoulders as chairman the main burden rests, said the first round of contributions had shown an excellent, positive attitude.

Although several delegations spoke of a will to agree, Mrs Margaret Thatcher upset some by her manner, as she has often done before. Herr Hans-Dierich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, who is not often moved to rudeness, said she was "unrepentant and inflexible".

There seemed to be early agreement in principle that there must be a new system for calculating how much each member state should pay, but the summit leaders adjourned for dinner with no agreement on figures.

The officials were also set the task of writing an outline agreement on increasing the Community's resources, although Mrs Thatcher repeated, in her first intervention, that the Community would have to "put its house in order" before she would assent to any increase.

There were two early indications that progress which eluded the Ten at Athens might be achieved at last. The first was the continuing secrecy, with the participants keeping their negotiating hands concealed from

the outside world well after the talks had started.

The heads of government appeared intent on giving themselves and their partners the maximum room for manoeuvre.

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The British Government wanted a settlement, but not on "any old terms" and not by compromising principles.

The talks began briskly, to the satisfaction of the French presidency whose latest draft proposals, circulated late last week, were the basis for discussion.

The first discussion of "imbalances", which means the British budget problem, was completed at high speed.

Mrs Thatcher and the French paper was "useful" but she insisted it needed to be both clarified and changed if it was to form the basis for a settlement.

She complained of the "obscurity" in the paper's definition of the gap between what Britain pays and receives, and expressed anxiety that the text as it stood underestimated by about £120m the amount Britain pays.

If that interpretation were accepted then the British contribution would have to be adjusted accordingly. Mrs Thatcher repeated her offer, made in Athens, to pay a net contribution (at present rates) of between £240m and £300m.

"My attitude is strictly practical," she said. "It is the result that matters."

Continued on back page, col 5

Mrs Thatcher in Brussels yesterday

National savings rates cut

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The Government last night withdrew the 26th issue of National Savings certificates and is cutting interest rates on other National Savings accounts.

The move has been widely expected because the falling interest rates had left National Savings paying much more to investors than competing forms of savings. There was some surprise when the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, did not announce lower rates in the Budget; the reductions announced last week by building societies and banks made a cut inevitable.

The interest on income bonds and deposit bonds is coming down from 11 to 10 per cent before tax from May 3, and the investment account rate will fall from 11 to 9.25 per cent from April 2.

A 27th issue of savings certificates will be launched on April 5, paying 7.25 per cent tax free compared with 8.26 per cent on the 26th issue. The new issue is worth at least 10.4 per cent to taxpayers, who are allowed to invest a maximum of £5,000. Each £25 unit will be worth £3.48 after five years.

The amount savers can put in either income bonds or investment accounts was reduced in the Budget from £200,000 to £50,000.

Rates paid by National Savings are still much higher than ordinary seven-day deposit accounts with banks, which now offer 5.25 per cent before tax.

Homeowners are rushing to beat the June 1 deadline when VAT becomes payable on building improvements. An official of the Halifax Building Society said yesterday: "Last year we lent £325m in further advances on existing mortgages. Now we are expecting at least 10 per cent more."

But he told ministers that it

TUC continues to boycott Nedd

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

TUC leaders decided last night to continue their boycott of the National Economic Development Council (Nedd) in protest at the Government's decision to ban trade unions at the Government Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham. The boycott will be reviewed on a month by month basis but is expected to last until the annual congress in September.

The decision, by a 25 to 16 majority, was taken despite pressure from moderates that the TUC ought to return to Nedd in order to represent union members' interest in the economic forum which includes ministers and representatives of the Confederation of British Industry.

The general council decided, however, not to boycott meetings of the Nedd industry committees, which conduct surveys of more than 40 industrial sectors.

The decision was taken in spite of an appeal by Mr Len Murray, the general secretary, to end the boycott because he argued the unions had made their point. He refused to elaborate on the decision last night except to say that it had

been taken in the knowledge of the available alternatives.

Mr Terry Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and a member of the TUC team on Nedd, was opposed to the withdrawal but said that he was in some ways satisfied that the boycott may only be temporary.

However, other general council members indicated their satisfaction with the decision not to attend the monthly Nedd meetings. Mr William Keys, the general secretary of the print union Sogat '82, said: "I have never believed that the NEDC have done anything for working people."

Supporters of the continued TUC ban were unconcerned at the prospect of the Government winding up the council if the TUC policy was not changed.

It is also expected that there will be an important debate at the Brighton congress in September on the whole question of relationships with the Government.

The TUC has decided that it

will continue to be represented on many bodies and organizations on which government nominees also sit.

Continued on back page, col 5

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Edward Heath last night warned the Government that the country could not survive on a diet of microchips alone.

Intervening in the final day of the Commons debate on the Budget, the former Prime Minister pointed out that Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, had spoken out against state intervention - before announcing a series of measures designed to help high technology industry.

Mr Heath said that steel, shipbuilding, car-making and engineering had not become

outdated; they were essential and vital and they should not be neglected.

Earlier, opening the debate, Mr Tebbit said that the Chancellor had delivered a Budget for enterprise, risk-taking and employment because it was a business Budget.

Mr Peter Shore, the Opposition spokesman, said it was ludicrous to claim that it was a Budget for jobs, it set the scene for a cutback in public spending and an accelerated sell-off of public sector assets.

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Continued on back page, col 5

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Continued on back page, col 5

Botham apologizes for insulting Pakistan

an interview with the *Pakistan Times* that Botham said was total nonsense and a "poisonous utterance".

Botham is to send an apology to the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan, Major-General Sardar Butt, for remarks he made about the country in a radio interview broadcast by the BBC last Saturday. Botham criticized hotels and food in Pakistan and said England should not tour a country he described as "a place to send your mother-in-law for a month, all expenses paid".

Botham said yesterday that when interviewed he was still feeling the effects of the exploratory knee operation which caused him to return home early from the tour last week and "was in a low mood".

"I was naturally disappointed at having to return home for medical treatment with two Tests to go. I realize

now that I got things out of proportion," he said, adding: "The last thing I want to do is hurt the feelings of my many friends in Pakistan."

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The comments by Both

Government to invest £180m to stimulate microelectronics

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The Government is to invest about £180m in high technology industries between now and 1990 in anticipation of generating a further £1,000m.

The package's mainstay is a £120m investment in the Microelectronics Industry Support Programme, an extension of a project set up in 1978. More than £55m has been invested under the original scheme and has attracted, according to government estimates, a further £270m in the high technology area.

The money will assist British companies in developing advanced microchip design.

Outlining the scheme, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, said: "More is happening in the electronics industry in Britain than anywhere else in Europe, both in production and application. Between 1978 and 1983 the production of microchip in the United Kingdom has more than trebled."

"We have caught up West Germany as the largest consumer of microchips in Western Europe, accounting for 29 per cent of total European consumption."

The software (computer programs) scheme was given another £12m to allow the project to encourage development of software with export potential.

That scheme was created in

1972. It had little impact for more than a decade, but was relaunched two years ago. Since then about 160 projects have been given a total of £21m.

Britain has one of the fastest growing high technology sectors. It is intended that this investment programme will assist manufacturers in designing British products around British-developed microelectronics.

Mr Baker said: "We must maintain our lead and extend it. In the remainder of the 1980s the electronics industry will need to invest £1b in the development and production of integrated circuits."

The Government has invested more than £100m in grants and loans in Immos, the microchip company, and is trying to attract further investment from the private sector.

Part of the high technology package announced will mean another 25 information technology centres for training unemployed youths in microelectronics and computers being added to the planned network of 150.

A further £20m will also be available to small companies in textiles, clothing, and footwear industries to invest in advanced technology machinery and another £20m for the development of modern manufacturing technology.

Rail strike likely as unions offered 4%

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The prospect of a further confrontation on the railways over pay and productivity emerged last night after British Rail made a 4 per cent offer tied to union acceptance of fundamental changes in working practices.

British Rail set a deadline of April 16 for agreement by the unions to the productivity changes, which were first proposed nearly four years ago. There seems little chance of early union approval of the offer.

The pay offer came as railway and other transport unions called a one-day strike at London Transport on Wednesday next week as part of the TUC's week of protest over the Government's plans for curtailing the powers of local government.

The strike call, which has to be ratified by the executives of the unions involved, would halt all bus and Tube travel in the capital. The decision was taken against the advice of public service unions who fear it could prove counter-productive.

A joint meeting yesterday of the TUC's local government and transport industries committees heard arguments from the white-collar unions that a strike would threaten services which the TUC was arguing that the Government was questioning. It was also pointed out that the strike, originally planned for next Thursday, would prevent many people

getting to a TUC-organized demonstration in London on that day.

The meeting last night of the London Transport trade unions committee accepted the need not to detract from the March 29 demonstration but called on all employees "to strike on March 28 "to show our abhorrence at the impending destruction of our industry and jobs of our members".

The British Rail pay offer

would cost £60m a year. The board has told the unions that it is prepared to consider five variations on allocating the 4 per cent to take account of improving the position of the low-paid and meeting union claims for extra holidays.

The main disagreement centres on the three productivity improvements. Mr James Knapp, the general secretary of the National Union of Railways, said last night that the offer had been rejected because British Rail was asking railway workers to pay for their own increase.

The three changes demanded by the board are: introduction of driver-only operation on freight trains, extending driver-only operation of passenger trains from the controversial Bedford to St Pancras line to the Great Northern suburban service from Kings Cross to east Hertfordshire, and removal of the second man from locomotive cabs.

Heseltine to scrap intelligence post

By Our Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence's top intelligence posts are to be rationalized as part of the effort by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, to eliminate duplication in senior jobs (our Defence Correspondent writes).

There are two top intelligence appointments in the ministry, Director General of Intelligence and Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Intelligence). It is understood they will be replaced by a single appointment of a chief of defence intelligence later this year.

The present Director General of Intelligence is Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday, Air Marshal Sir Michael Armitage is Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Intelligence).

The jobs are seen as being largely interchangeable, with Sir Roy concentrating on running the intelligence department and Sir Michael reporting to Field Marshal Sir Edwyn Bramall, the Chief of the Defence Staff.

The name of the new chief of defence intelligence has not yet been announced, but it is said that Sir Michael is front-runner.

Last week Mr Heseltine announced radical plans to strengthen the position of the central defence staffs in their relations with the individual services, and to eliminate duplication of work in senior posts.

At arm's length: Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, inspecting the latest version of the remote control bomb disposal machine used by the Army, at Morfox Ltd in Mitcham, south London, yesterday.

Crisis in the coalfields

Police mobilization will cost councils and public millions

By Stewart Tandler

The police mobilization to meet the miners' picketing is likely to cost millions of pounds.

On Sunday the operation was estimated to have cost £1.5m. Yesterday, another £500,000 was spent covering the Nottingham area with 3,000 extra officers.

Precise figures were not available yesterday at the National Recording Centre, the operational headquarters-based in Scotland Yard.

Mr Andrew Sloan, chief constable of Bedfordshire and deputy head of the centre, said that too many factories were involved.

The bill will be presented to the police authorities in the Midlands whose chief constable asked for assistance Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire, have a total strength of 6,673 officers. They can be supplemented by up to 8,000 officers available to the centre.

They are members of support units created by every force over the past few years. The units, each containing one inspector, two sergeants and 20 constables, are trained in riot and public order duties and can be mobilized rapidly.

Up to 17 forces have been asked for help under a mutual aid scheme laid down in the Police Act, 1964. Not all the forces have been named, but they include Thames Valley, Gloucestershire, West Midlands and West Mercia, who were yesterday providing extra men for the Warwick force.

In all Warwick fielded 1,000 men, its total strength is 920, but the other three forces would not say how many were helping or where they came from.

The National Recording Centre, founded in 1972, has been opened four or five times, including an industrial dispute

in the prison service and the Papal visit in 1982. Officers were mobilized for the riots in the summer of 1981.

When planning started last week, Mr Lawrence Byford, the Chief Inspector of Constabulary, went to Nottingham. He returned to London on Sunday night and yesterday the Home Office said that his role had been to report to the Home Secretary on police action.

Another inspector of constabulary is a member of the centre's staff and, according to the 1981 report by Mr Byford's predecessor, is a director of operations.

Kent miners leaders denounced the police presence in the coalfields yesterday as "a paramilitary operation" that broke new ground in industrial disputes. (Our Labour Editor writes.)

Area officials of the National Union of Mineworkers complained that cars carrying flying pickets to the south Midlands National Coal Board area had been stopped by police before they left the county on suspicion that they could be going to break the law.

Mr Malcolm Pitt, area president said: "What is happening is bringing the law into grave disrepute. That is our charge against the government. This is a paramilitary operation quite different to anything we have seen in this country before."

"We are not in a state of emergency, in fact we are in a state of normality. This operation is a complete breach with past concepts of civil policing. The police are making assumptions about people driving on the public highway. They are assuming an intention to break the law which I do not think can be argued."

The Kent miners, who stopped Bagworth colliery in Leicestershire last week, said

they their picket was lawful under the Employment Act 1980 because they confined their activities to pits in the same NCB administrative area.

We are talking about members of the NUM in the same region of which Kent is an integrated unit. We are asking our members to approach other members of the union in the South Midlands to discuss common problems and our approach to them."

Kent, which has fewer than 2,000 NUM members, has been sending out a handful of pickets to selected pits.

Kent miners have been out on strike for 10 days over the threat to two of their three pits, Snowdon and Tilmanstone, threatened with closure and the loss of 1,000 jobs as part of rationalization in the South Midlands area.

The men have not had a coalfield ballot but mass meetings attended by a substantial majority, voted heavily to stop work.

Local union officials are working at Transport and General Workers Union offices in London and asking for support from other unions.

Becoming, for example, a branch secretary of the National Association of Teachers (Further and Higher Education) is a recipe for disaster.

"We end up negotiating deals or becoming buried under piles of union paperwork, with no chance of developing revolutionary politics.

Members are reminded that they do not join a trade union just to be good unionists, but to raise revolutionary policies.

"Under present conditions trying to represent the majority whose confidence is low inevitably involves a dilution of revolutionary politics. We can only relate to those prepared to fight."

SWP makes a tactical retreat

By Tim Jones

The Socialist Workers' Party has instructed members to stage a tactical retreat from positions of power in a teachers' union and build up a revolutionary base among the rank and file.

But party activists have also been told to cultivate and convert key personnel in college departments.

While the party concedes that the struggle in colleges is at a low ebb, it exhorts members to collect money from polytechnics and colleges to support industrial disputes and to take activists to picket lines.

The thrust of the new strategy is to establish a stronger rank-and-file power base in higher education establishments from which the party can operate.

Members have been told to avoid holding important college posts unless they make a good case to their local branch.

The party believes a grip on union posts could identify it with failure. An internal document states: "The existing leadership, even when left in name, has turned rightwards as a result of the downturn in members' activities and is isolated and demoralized."

Becoming, for example, a branch secretary of the National Association of Teachers (Further and Higher Education) is a recipe for disaster.

The report indicates that Mr Levene's proposals have received the informal approval of the Admiralty Board of the Defence Council, and that he is now preparing a more detailed study which is to be completed by the end of this month.

The report is understood to say that the efficiency of the dockyards cannot be judged because the accounting system is "entirely meaningless" in commercial terms.

The Ministry of Defence said it appeared that the document had been given unauthorized distribution and inquiries were being made to discover the source.

Cut in youth training 'threatens pledge to school-leavers'

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Cuts proposed by the Government in the Youth Training Scheme could throw into doubt the scheme's ability to meet the commitment to provide every unemployed 16-year-old school-leaver with the offer of a place within six months of leaving school, it was said yesterday.

The Manpower Services Commission, which operates the scheme, has responded to criticisms and the Government's insistence in cuts in the second year of the programme by instituting a review by the Youth Training Board which advises on its operating.

Originally the scheme was to provide 460,000 places for young people, but so far only 325,000 have been taken up. The target for places next year has already been cut to 413,000.

The Government and the commission have argued that the main reason for the abortive has been that young people have decided to stay at school for further education or have been successful in finding a full-time job.

The Youth aid report says, however, that Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, gave figures to the Commons showing that one third of the 330,000 unemployed 16-year-olds had decided to stay on the dole.

A report from the Council called into question the willingness of its members to continue supporting the scheme if the Government insists on cuts of up to 30 per cent in the section of the scheme devoted mainly to community projects.

That was followed by a survey conducted by Youthaid a pressure group working on behalf of young people, which

YOUTH TRAINING SCHEME

	Places offered (Jan 84)	Entrants (Jan 84)	Proposed for next year
Industry-based	319,537	226,900	322,874
Community-based	90,272	74,360	71,554
Mainly in colleges	32,047	23,800	18,576
Total	441,856	325,060	413,004

Source: Manpower Services Commission

Naval refits leak starts mole hunt

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence has begun an inquiry into the leaking of a report recommending that the refitting of British warships and Polaris submarines should be placed in the hands of private contractors.

The report, by Mr Peter Levene, personal adviser to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, has come into the hands of Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dunfermline East.

Mr Brown said yesterday that the report recommended that although the Ministry of Defence should retain the ownership of the Royal Dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth, private industry should be allowed to tender for the right to operate them.

Mr Brown has tabled 17 questions for written answer in the Commons. He criticized the report for failing to consider the issue of national security raised by the possibility of allowing private contractors to carry out maintenance work on Polaris submarines.

He said that the six-page typewritten report did not put forward any arguments to demonstrate inefficiency in the dockyards.

Detectives throughout Ireland are still searching for the wife of Dominic McGlinchey who is wanted for questioning in connection with terrorist crimes in the North. (Richard Ford writes from Belfast.)

Mrs McGlinchey is also wanted by the police in the republic in connexion with the free imprisonment of an officer in co Cork last December.

At that time it was believed that Mrs McGlinchey, from Toome, co Antrim, was heavily pregnant and police think she may be in a safe house in the republic rather than as rumoured in France. Royal Ulster Constabulary want to question her in connexion with the murder of Police Constable Colin Carson at a security check

Gerry Adams out of hospital

Mr Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, left hospital yesterday, five days after being shot and wounded in Belfast. He has been under constant guard at the city's Royal Victoria Hospital since he was hit in the shoulder, arm and neck.

Observer inquiry

A Scotland Yard report on allegations that a former Minister of Defence official leaked information to *The Observer* is being studied by the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Stewart Tandler writes.

The report was confirmed yesterday by a spokesman for Sir Thomas Hetherington, the DPP, after the *Daily Mail* reported allegations by a former member of the ministry that he was paid £1,000 by *The Observer* for information on which two articles were based last autumn. The man admitted he had been interviewed by the police.

The spokesman for the DPP said an interim report had been received from the Chief Superintendent Ronald Hardy, of Scotland Yard's CI department, and investigations were continuing.

Overseas selling prices

Austria 50p, Belgium 50p, Canada 50p, Czechoslovakia 50p, Finland 50p, France 7.00, Germany 5.00, Greece 5.00, Italy 5.00, Luxembourg 5.00, Norway 5.00, Portugal 5.00, Spain 5.00, Sweden 5.

PARLIAMENT MARCH 19 1984

Micro-electronics gets package of support

THE BUDGET

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, opening the final day of the budget debate in the Commons, outlined six extensions of Government policy of support for research and development. These were, he said, part and parcel of the Government's general objective of rewarding initiative and innovation.

They included special provision to encourage the use of technologically advanced equipment by small and medium-sized firms in the clothing, footwear, knitting and textile industries.

There would also be a new micro-electronic industry support programme proving £120m of Government support up to 1990.

He said that since the budget the Opposition, at least, had announced the end of the world as they knew it. The Government had been criticised for taking so long over abolition of national insurance surcharge. Labour's special tax on labour and of the extension of VAT to fish and chips.

As an act of charity one should forget Mr Neil Kinnock's most forgettable speech last Tuesday.

What had happened to the real world since the budget? Interest rates had fallen by about 1 per cent to the lowest for nearly six years; building societies had cut mortgage rates by 1 per cent; share prices had risen.

As a result of the policies of the past few years, Britain was leading Europe out of the recession; growth of gross domestic product in 1983 and expected growth in 1984 were the highest of the Community partners; a position to which Britain was not accustomed, least of all under Labour governments.

To meet our industrial and economic performance, to create the wealth we need, (he said), we need to reduce costs, to remove the distortions in the economy and provide an environment in which drive, effort and determination will be rewarded. The budget does all of those.

It had been the government's stated objective to abolish national insurance surcharge within the lifetime of this Parliament and it had done it in the first opportunity, in the first budget of this parliament.

Mr Shore had called for its abolition last year. What a pity he had imposed it in the first place. The abolition would be worth £130m to private industry in a full year, which was a measure of the burden it had been over the years.

The halving of stamp duty on share transactions would give a welcome boost to the international competitiveness of London as a financial centre and earner of foreign currency. The 2 per cent stamp duty compared unfavourably with the rates in Britain's EEC partners and more particularly with those in the United States.

No doubt the economy would also grow further as other distortions were removed. The government was moving to a clearer and simpler system of corporation tax entirely in keeping with that approach.

The lower rates of corporation tax had been warmly welcomed by business. In two years' time industry would be paying corporation tax at 35 per cent, a reduction of one-third in the current rate. The small companies' rate of corporation tax would fall immediately to 30 per cent, the same level as the basic rate of income tax.

The large tax concessions given to favoured investment, successful or not, had reduced the cost of that investment by up to 52 per cent and more when financed through borrowing. They relieved industrialists from the cost of inefficiency or failure but had to be paid for by the tax bills of those who were not successful.

That system could no longer be justified. Businesses would be left to take their decisions on economic and industrial factors and not as they often did in the past by thinking about where the tax breaks lay.

What incentive could there be for risk-taking when the state gobbed up over half the profits of success and the cost of failure was minimised by the tax system?

There was a consistent link between reducing the capital allowance and abolishing NIS. The Government wanted to remove distortions to the character of investment and leave those decisions in the hands of investors guided not by tax relief but the prospect of returns.

The bias imposed in the past (he went on) by the structure of corporation tax and NIS which we inherited was discriminatory against labour. How odd it is that the

Labour Party should tax labour and subsidise capital and then have to leave it to us, the capitalists, to put things right.

All these reforms shared a common purpose. In the treatment of capital investment overall and treatment of regional investment the Government's aim would be the same: to improve the productivity of investment and end the distortion caused by favouring capital over labour.

Not the least important of the Chancellor's announcements was the statement that the tax changes would lead to a reduction of at least 1,000 in the number of tax gatherers. One thousand tax gatherers fewer meant perhaps as many as 10,000 fewer tax accountants. Those efforts and skills could be transferred from sterile conflict to more useful tasks.

There would also be a new micro-electronic industry support programme proving £120m of Government support up to 1990.

Grants would be available for projects aimed at the development, production and use of micro-electronic components.

This would help to ensure that the results of the longer-term research programme would be carried through into commercial products.

These six extensions (he said) of our existing policy of support for research and development are part and parcel of our general approach towards rewarding initiative and of modern developments.

Advanced manufacturing technology was crucial to improving industrial competitiveness, he said. The initial allocation of £35m to the flexible manufacturing systems scheme, announced in 1982, was close to being committed. There was continuing heavy demand. There would be a further £20m for advanced manufacturing technology.

Design and quality was increasing recognised as a vitally important link between the company's productive capacity and the market it served. He was therefore extending the design advisory service funded consultancy scheme so that smaller companies could benefit from it. He would also make available another £5m for the department's successful quality assurance advisory scheme.

The original £25m for software products was now almost fully committed and he had decided to continue the scheme and to provide further funding of £12m to carry it through to mid-1985.

The information technology centres had been successful since they were announced in 1981. He had decided to increase the number of centres, which would now benefit from his department's financial support, from 150 to 175.

He also intended to make special provision to encourage the use of technologically advanced equipment by small and medium-sized firms in the clothing, footwear, accounting and other professions.

Mr Tebbit had outlined crumbs of comfort which must be seen in the context of a trade and industry budget which had suffered more severe curtailment in this past year than any other previous year of the Government for 1984-85 and the years ahead. What Mr Tebbit had announced were carefully judged stimuli equal to 0.003 of gross domestic product.

The most judicious label put on the budget was the Chancellor's own, that it was a budget for new jobs. This had been reiterated by Mr Tebbit. But the budget had largely set the scene for the construction of public spending over the next few years and also the accelerated horse sale of public sector assets.

Britain's overseas trade had benefited from the massive output and export of North Sea oil. This had enabled the country to show a substantial balance of payments surplus in each of the last three years.

While exports in both volume and value of North Sea oil had risen year by year, the size of Britain's overall trade surplus had been declining.

This happy period of overall surplus (he said) is coming to an end. It is my view that this will prove to be the Achilles heel of the whole Government strategy.

Last year for the first time in our history we imported more manufactured goods than we actually exported.

Trade in manufactured goods had declined from a surplus of £4,800m in 1981 to a deficit of £2,100m last year.

Worship of the deities of money supply had produced cruel effects. For the past year or more Britain had had the highest real interest rates - price of money over the rate of inflation - than at any time this century. This was a devastating imposition on industrial costs.

Money supply policies together

Tebbit: Innovation.

industry's ability to innovate and hence in its future prosperity was its use of electronics. The importance of micro-electronics was recognised in the original micro electronics industry support programme launched in 1978. Its £55m funds were fully committed and he expected that total investment encouraged by the scheme to be about £270m.

For the remainder of the 1980s it was estimated that the United Kingdom micro-electronics industry needed to spend more than £1,000m in the development and production of integrated circuits alone if it was to maintain a growth rate in line with worldwide trends.

So there would be a new micro-electronics industry support programme to provide £120m of Government support up to 1990.

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Money supply policies together

engaged in "placebo politics" and the savings can be but relatively marginal.

Professor Rose is not advocating roll-back (he is an American who describes himself as a Truman Democrat), nor does he think public opinion would put up with it whoever was in Number 10. But his work does set the drive to save money and cut jobs in its wider historical context.

Summarized very simply, Professor Rose's international comparative study of welfare and defence programmes, the motors of state spending in Western democracies, suggests that until decades and sometimes centuries of legislative commitments are rolled back, economy-minded governments such as Mrs Thatcher's will be

30,000 smaller than it was in 1963, which was the twelfth year of a 13-year cycle of Conservative governments, and the smallest since 1945.

It has been a fairly crude process, however, with departments, as one early cutter put it, "holding up their bleeding stumps" to the Treasury. But the Government's financial management initiative with its detailed departmental returns of budget, manpower, and activities, division by division, will, in theory, make the push to get numbers below 600,000 markedly more sophisticated.

But a new book, *Understanding Big Government*, by Richard Rose, director of the Centre for the Study of Public Policy at Strathclyde University, should make the public expenditure economists and the manpower cutters in Whitehall pause.

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know of lorries

Warring Lebanon parties seek miracle to save Lausanne conference

From Robert Fisk, Lausanne

It was the correspondent of the Beirut newspaper, *An Nahar* who got it about right yesterday. As Lebanon's reconciliation conference dragged itself tenuously into its eighth day, he sent home a suitably cosmic dispatch.

"God created the world in six days," he reported. "But for the creation of peace in the Lebanon, seven days have not been enough. Only a miracle will save the conference from failure."

Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Vice-President, is in the miracle business just now and yesterday persuaded the Muslim delegates at Lausanne to produce joint proposals to be considered by the Lebanese Christian leaders.

But little more than an agreement on the principle of a new government of national unity was likely to emerge within the next 24 hours and Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, has already said he intends to return home today.

Lebanese government spokesmen, with scarcely less pessimism than they evinced on Sunday, talked yesterday about the possibility of one final night-time session of the conference, a meeting that just might endorse a structure of increased Muslim governmental power

while retaining Maronite control of the presidency. But even this is likely to be no more than a set of high sounding principles rather than concrete agreement.

It is almost as if the IR thick iron anti-rocket shield protecting the conference chamber from potential assassins has somehow isolated the Lebanese politicians from the horrors of their own country.

The ferocity of Beirut is only a telephone call away from those attending the conference and delegates can be found in their suites each evening, staring transfixed and powerless at the news film from their capital city, of hooded militiamen fighting amid a ceasefire that has already itself become a phantom.

Yet, Lebanese delegates can still be found enjoying the artistry of Miss Diana di Bango's dance act at Brummell's nightclub in Lausanne, while the would-be masters of Lebanon's destiny continue to enjoy the cuisine of the Hotel Beau Rivage's best restaurant.

The Syrians called Mr Jumblatt and Mr Nabil Berri, the leader of the Shia Muslim Amal movement to their rooms late on Sunday night and reportedly insisted they adopt a more compromising attitude towards the Christian leadership.

Awacs sent to protect Sudan from air attack

From Mohsin Ali
Washington

The US has sent two Awacs surveillance aircraft to Egypt to help guard against any new air attacks on neighbouring Sudan, the Pentagon announced yesterday. The aircraft landed on Monday in Cairo where they will be based.

Egypt and the Sudan have accused Libya of carrying out an air raid on the Sudanese city of Omdurman last Friday. Libya has denied the charge, but Egypt claims that Libya is the only country in the area to own the type of plane used in the raid, a Soviet-made Tapole 22.

A Pentagon spokesman said that President Reagan made the decision "in response to a request from the Egyptian and Sudanese governments to bolster their air defence capability".

"Their normal mission is to provide early warning air defence against air attacks," he said.

The Awacs would take part in combined air defence exercises being carried out by Egypt and Sudan, to demonstrate that the three countries could rapidly deploy forces to deal with aggression.

The Administration has also been considering a Sudanese request for an airlift of anti-aircraft weapons and other equipment.

• Nimeiry accused: Mr Joseph Odia, political leader of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement yesterday accused the Sudanese Government of bombing its own people in Khartoum last week (Andrew Lyett reports).

He told a London press conference that the raid was carried out by a Sudanese Air Force MiG 15, which flew from El Obeid in the west of the country. He said the aircraft bombed a partly used radio station, and the houses of two opposition leaders, including the imprisoned head of the Asir Sect, Mr Sadiq el Mahdi. Two people were killed in this operation, and two more when the Sudanese Army moved in.

Mr Odia added that the bombing had been conducted to allow Egyptian troops to move into Sudan under the two countries' 1976 defence treaty and had been discussed between President Mubarak of Egypt and President Nimeiry on March 11.

Mr Odia is a veteran southern politician.

Iraq gains ground in bloody swamp battle

Majnum, Iraq (AFP) — Iraq has retaken a significant part of this oil-rich region of swampy islands, canals and shallow water, after a three-week battle that officials acknowledge was extremely costly.

For the first time Iraq has allowed Western reporters to visit the front and see that Iranian forces have been evicted from a large part of Majnum.

The correspondents saw both the evidence of a bloody battle, blotted, decaying bodies still floating in marshland, weapons piled high, and signs that Iraq had retaken some of the

fronts. But they also found evidence that Iran had not given up the fight.

Peering out from the cover of swamp grass and reeds, the reporters saw a long, earthen dyke. "The Iranians are there," said an Iraqi officer, with a sweep of his hand.

His explanation was suddenly cut short by the characteristic whistle of a falling shell, an charge.

explosion and then machine gun fire.

The commander of the southern war front, said on Saturday: "We have taken enough of the islands. We can finish the job when we want. The combat conditions favour the enemy."

The Iraqis appear to be preparing for an expected Iranian offensive rather than setting up their own.

None of the dead wore a gas mask, although there were many masks in a pile of thousands of confiscated weapons.

None of the Iraqi soldiers had a mask and it could not be determined whether chemical weapons had been used.

Iran, the United States and several European doctors who have treated Iranian wounded say there is evidence Iraq is using chemical weapons, banned by the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Iraq has rejected the charge.

Greece cultivating new ties with Israel

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece is readjusting the pattern of its relations with the Arab countries and cultivating discreet new ties with Israel.

The Government's basic policy on the Middle East remains unchanged. What has changed is that the emphasis in these relations is switching from ideological affinity to considerations of Greek national interests.

A government spokesman defined Greek policy in this way: "Greece supports Israel's right to live within secure borders, but believes that there can be no peace in the area until the Palestinians acquire a homeland."

After almost two-and-a-half years in power, the ruling Socialists realized that the effusive style of their pro-Arab policy had failed to benefit Greece's political and economic interests in any tangible manner.

Athens became embarrassingly enmeshed in intra-Arab feuds. Hints that it was

tolerating antisemitism after the Government's emotional reaction to the invasion of Lebanon, resulted in substantial losses for Greek tourism, trade and shipping and prompted fears of possible repercussions on Greece's ability to raise Western bank loans.

Last week, the Government took advantage of President Karanfilov's visit to Egypt to mend its fences with a country it had so far treated as a pariah and a traitor to the Arab cause.

A senior Greek official was dispatched to Israel last week for the opening of a centre of Hellenic classical studies at Jerusalem university, built with funds donated by surviving salomon Jews.

This contact is being followed up shortly when Mr Nikos Katsopidis, the Greek Foreign Minister's political affairs director, goes to Israel to return the visit of his Israeli opposite number, Mr David Kimche, last June, which set the scene for this new phase.

Circus tragedy

Athens (AFP) — Three hundred circus animals, including monkeys, crocodiles and snakes, perished when a stove set fire to their wagon while it was parked in an Athens suburb. A baby boa constrictor was the sole survivor.

Women at arms

Madrid — More than 68 per cent of females, aged between 15 and 30, polled in army survey, have said that they would like to do national service. Spain's armed forces are widely regarded as bastions of male values.



Royal star: The Prince of Wales enjoying a comic with schoolchildren after arriving yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania is the first stop on a two-week African tour, which will include Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana.

Chicago holds key for US contenders

From Nicholas Axford, Chicago

Mr Walter Mondale and Senator Gary Hart engaged in frenetic last-minute campaigning yesterday as a new poll showed the two rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination running neck-and-neck in today's crucial primary in Illinois, the first to be held in the industrialized Midwest.

According to the Washington Post ABC News poll, Senator Hart leads Mr Mondale by 41 per cent to 37 per cent. The Rev Jesse Jackson is third with 16 per cent. Virtually all of his support came from black voters.

However, the poll was taken before Sunday night's televised debate in which all three contestants hoped to sway the large numbers of uncommitted voters.

The debate produced no clear winner, nor did it break any new ground. Mr Mondale, who came under predictable attack for his ties to organized labour and to "old ideas and old arrangements", managed to appeal the most effectively.

Mr Hart convincingly refuted the former Vice-President's charges that he was less

wholehearted in his commitment to social justice and civil rights. He was not as polished as Mr Mondale, who managed to avoid making the sort of blunder which marred his campaign last week.

Mr Jackson, who made it clear that he intends to stay in the race to the end, was the most relaxed. He also drew the loudest laughs when questioned about being adark-horse candidate. "I'm a dark horse, no matter how you put it," he said. "I have no apologies about this horse. It's a good horse and it's a fast horse."

He must rely for his support on voters in down-state Illinois and the Chicago suburbs as well as the educated elite in the city itself. Mr Mondale, on the other hand, needs the support of black voters, who comprise 40 per cent of registered Democrats in Chicago, if he is to fight off Senator Hart's challenge.

Mondale campaign aides believe he will win half of the black vote. But others feel he

will perform less well because of his association with Mr Vrdolyak and Mr Jackson's strength in his home town.

The outcome of today's primary is of crucial importance to both front-runners, who are level-peeing in the national contest for the nomination. Victory for Mr Mondale, after Saturday's success in the Michigan caucuses, would not only compensate for the recent defeats he suffered at the hands of his upstart rival, but put him in a strong position to score further successes in two other big industrial states which hold their primaries shortly, New York and Pennsylvania.

Victory for Senator Hart, or even a strong second, would show that he is a national, rather than regional, candidate and would demonstrate that he could win votes in the industrial heartland, which is supposed to be Mr Mondale's constituency.

The outcome is also crucial for Mr Jackson. His strong showing in the South has been mainly among a rural electorate. Illinois provides the first real test of his appeal for urban blacks.



Israel snub for UN in Lebanon

From Moshe Brillant
Tel Aviv

The Israeli Government has told Mr Brian Urquhart, the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, that the UN peacekeeping force now deployed in southern Lebanon was not included in Israel's plans for security in the area.

Mr Urquhart was visiting

Switzerland on a tour of Middle East capitals to ask government leaders how they saw the role for UN forces in the changing situation in Lebanon.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, and Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, told Mr Urquhart that the UN forces might be useful as referees in places such as the Sinai peninsula, where both parties wanted peace, but not in southern Lebanon.

Experience had shown UN non-combatant contingents were incapable of enforcing peace when one of the parties did not want it, they said.

French farm fury over milk cuts

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A British lorry was hijacked by French farmers yesterday and forced to drive through a police barricade before taking part in one of the country wide series of demonstrations in protest against proposals to cut milk quotas and farm prices adopted by EEC farm ministers.

The lorry, belonging to Mr Swaine of Church Stretton, Shropshire, was seized by farmers as the drivers, Mr Harry Teasdale, was waiting to unload his cargo of 15 tons of frozen cow sides at a meat processing plant in Ferte Bertrand.

About 400 demonstrators decided to "escort" the lorry to Le Mans. On their way they found their road blocked by a police barricade. Undeterred, they forced their way through, overturning a police van.

The police retaliated with tear gas, but failed to stop the demonstrators. There were no arrests.

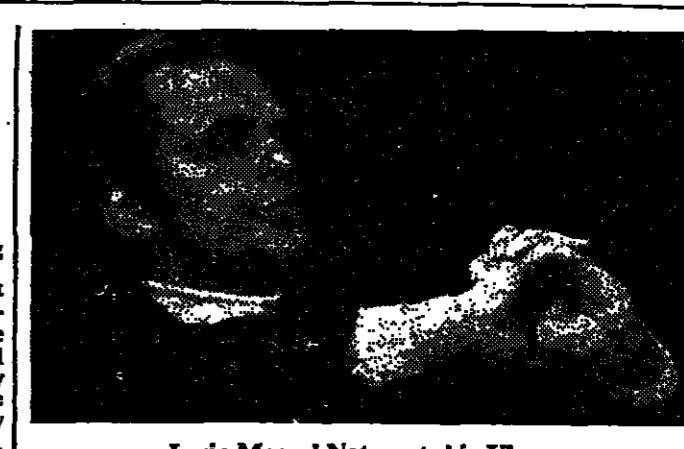
Mr Teasdale and his lorry were later released unharmed after taking part in a rowdy demonstration of more than 10,000 farmers. The older farmers apparently had to restrain some of the younger hotheads, who at one point seemed intent on setting the lorry on fire.

Riot police intervened with tear gas to break up the demonstration after farmers tore up part of the railings surrounding the prefecture and bombarded it with stones and other projectiles.

Mr Teasdale telephoned the British Embassy in Paris last night, insisting that he had been treated "like a gentleman" by the French farmers. The embassy kept in close touch with developments during the day.

In Lille, some 4,000 farmers marched through the town yesterday, breaking car windshields and setting light to bales of hay, before bombing the town hall with eggs. The police did not intervene.

In Rouen, the town's citizens were woken up at 4.30 am by firecrackers and the clatter of milk cans being dragged around



Lorin Maazel Not wanted in Vienna.

Few tears at departure of 'glamorous' Maazel

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Lorin Maazel, the controversial director of the Vienna State Opera, was criticised yesterday for spending too little time in the Austrian capital and too much time abroad on lucrative engagements.

The criticism, by Herr Helmut Zilk, the Austrian minister responsible for the arts, followed news that Dr Maazel's contract would not be renewed when it expired in 1985.

Herr Zilk said that Dr Maazel, who is at present in Canada, would probably be succeeded by Dr Claus Helmuth Dresel, the present director of the Zurich Opera.

The choice reflects Herr Zilk's belief that the development of this most temperamental of opera houses is best placed in the hands of a proven

administrator rather than a conductor with a glamorous international reputation.

The announcement of Dr Maazel's impending departure has been greeted with considerable euphoria here. His attempts to reform the conservative repertoire system by reducing the number of operas performed have been relentlessly attacked by many Vienna newspaper critics. One leading conservative Vienna newspaper published three hostile articles last week.

Despite the widely publicized complaints, Herr Zilk angrily denied that Dr Maazel had been the victim of an antisemitic campaign. He knew of no evidence, he told journalists, to suggest that the conductor had not been welcomed warmly in Vienna.

New Meese inquiry opens

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The US Justice Department has opened preliminary investigations into the finances of Mr Edwin Meese, a close friend of President Reagan and Attorney General-designate.

The inquiries will centre on whether a special prosecutor should investigate a \$15,000 (£10,000) interest-free loan received by Mr Meese's wife from a friend, Mr Edwin Thomas, who was later ap-

pointed to a government job. Mr Thomas's wife also later gave a job in the Reagan Administration.

Mr Meese failed to list the loan on his 1981 and 1982 financial disclosure statements, as required by the Ethics in Government Act. Senate hearings into his appointment as Attorney General have been postponed.

Malta and Vatican seek deal on schools

By Our Correspondent

Vallletta.—Talks between the Warsaw correspondents of the BBC and The New York Times were summoned for questioning yesterday at the headquarters of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in connection with an investigation against a prominent Polish human rights lawyer.

Both correspondents refused to answer questions from Polish security police about how they had obtained copies of an open letter written by Mr Wladyslaw Sileski to General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, which accused the authorities of violating the law and covering up the investigation into the beating to death of a Warsaw schoolboy.

The BBC correspondent, Mr Kevin Ruane, aged 51, of Liverpool, declined to answer questions about how he had obtained copies of an open letter written by Mr Wladyslaw Sileski to General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, which accused the authorities of violating the law and covering up the investigation into the beating to death of a Warsaw schoolboy.

The talks, begun a year ago, broke down last June.

Fatal revenge

Islamabad (AP) — A father

raided the house of his son's murderer 12 years ago and hacked all five members to death. Police said an 80-year-old man was among those butchered in the village of Suri.

Curfew lifted

Riochoco (AP)—The military command in Peru's guerrilla zone has lifted a two-year curfew on Ayacucho to restore normal activity for the city's 80,0

kingdom

Gulf. Now the largest component of foreign earnings is the money sent by migrants working abroad. The impoverishment of the countryside has produced a volatile mass of an unemployed. Morocco, now less a food exporter, now has massive grain imports. Photographs: Warren Richey

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Avant-garde v The Establishment

Yesterday's announcement of a £20m investment scheme for the clothing industry and Mrs Thatcher's party at No 10 put the Establishment seal of approval on London Fashion Week. But, ironically, this season will be remembered for the triumph of the avant-garde.

The stand-out shows of the week were from the designers often showing in groups - who managed to put the creative energy of young London on to the runways. They absorbed the androgynous street style and often showed collections on both sexes. They lit up the sober browns with flashes of fluorescent colour. They cut in a way that brought the body into focus.

Above all, they gave out a strong sexual charge that has not been captured in clothes since the mini-skirted 1960s. It is this ebullience and energy that has drawn an increasing number of foreign press and buyers to London.

Body Map was the hottest ticket in town. Designers David Holan and Steve Stewart gave a strong, exciting all-action show.

Their clothes express themselves in movement, with knits and sweat fabrics that mould to the body. They take conventional track suit or sweatshirt proportions and change its focus by altering the proportions.

Betty Jackson tapped a strong resource of London design by using exclusive prints. Broken abstracts made interesting dresses. Brian Bolger's prints and Timney and Fowler's on Hurel jersey were the stars.

Wendy Dagworthy also uses action sportswear as the basis of her line, with dresses like track tops grown down to the knees or big shirts in citrus colours. Her men wore soft pyjama suits in hot clashes of colour like orange and pink.

Katharine Hammett is a designer with a cause. Her crumpled cotton clothes helped to revolutionize the way we dress. Now she wants to save the world, the whales and children from nuclear attack. That is the message she took to Downing Street on her slogan T-shirt.

The fast-moving group shows shot out sparks of talent: Sarah Windsor at Sunday's Amalgamated Talent doing witty shapes with plaid and also tarts at the Individual Clothes Show.

The enthusiasm and innovative energy of newly fledged designers has to be tempered with commerce and common sense once a small business is built. All too often I feel that the established designers had played too safe, although what else can they do when they have clients or customers to serve and no empire of perfumes and accessories on the European model to support a creative collection?

Sheridan Barnett has found new backing from Reidan and he delivered a fine collection, true to his own image of woman as a Valkyrie. She strides down the catwalk, violet jersey cloak swirling, mole brown flannel tweed redingote swinging. Tailoring was at its best in the oversize trouser suits or in the rust-red melton reefer jacket. Lumière and Sheila Brown also tried their hands at tailoring trim and dandy with colourful knits.

Roland Klein took the cardigan as his theme and worked it with style. It grew from hip length to three quarter, always with a slim skirt and very effective at night in raspberry silk faille over a slim dress or as an evening knit appliquéd by a leaf patterned cable.

Caroline Charles has an authentic London ethnic style, which means using very pretty fabrics in a gentle way. Her soft angora suits came in delicious combinations of grape, raspberry and sherbert pink.

If you love Jean Muir, you will like Jasper Conran, for his homage to London's most famous dressmaker brought a series of dainty crepe dresses, often with gored skirts and in quiet colours like floss green. In homage to Cleopatra there was a lot of navy blue tailoring, including a covetable cashmere cape. Window pane checks looked mesh. Braided edges to coats and suits ladylike.

Annabella Polson started with a pink suit (the new fashion lady). She went on to show a selection of capes in Wizard of Oz colours like Disney red and green.

The Emanuel's are amazing to please the cast of *Dynasty* with their chunky dresses so stagey, sexy that they should banish forever the royal wed-

ding. Anthony Haze also designs drop-dead gowns for the stars as well. His never fails in a public showing at the Hippodrome were magnificently sumptuous tweed, mohair and fluorescent sequins with pleated shoulder darts.

Yves Saint Laurent's evening wear is based on a triangular silhouette inspired by his native Japanese pagodas, with a wide shoulder line above a long slim body shape. There were dramatic Fortuny-style satin dresses and draped matt jersey in next season's colours for after dark black, lipstick red, and electric blue.

Zandra Rhodes brought out some good new prints in a monochrome collection - especially bold brush strokes of Deft blue on white chiffon and a graphic Manhattan skyline. New were fine wool dresses, but Zandra's magical touch is at night.

Janice Wainwright also shines at night, using matt fabrics with surface interest or contrasting suity jersey. Wavy asymmetric waves of patterned velvet. Her cocoon coats in earth brown with wrapped crepe and flannel dresses were a strong daytime line.

The cocktail dress is king at Murray Arbeid, whose fine workmanship puts the avant-garde designers to shame. He had a finely pleated peplum on a lacquer red satin suit and some clever trompe l'oeil drapings in silver bugle beads.

Jean Muir can teach the entire fashion world how to make a dress. Now she is also tailoring with slim coats in manish tweed and an interesting felt coat with a graffiti print. She also has a new slim skirt, asymmetrically lapping the hips and a covetable wrap dress like a man's smoking jacket. For the rest, we saw 57 varieties of the little black dress, never in ink black suede.

Miss Muir, CBE, has most consistent, professional and modest designs, as does her neighbour next door to the tailoring line in Downing Street.

LONDON FASHION

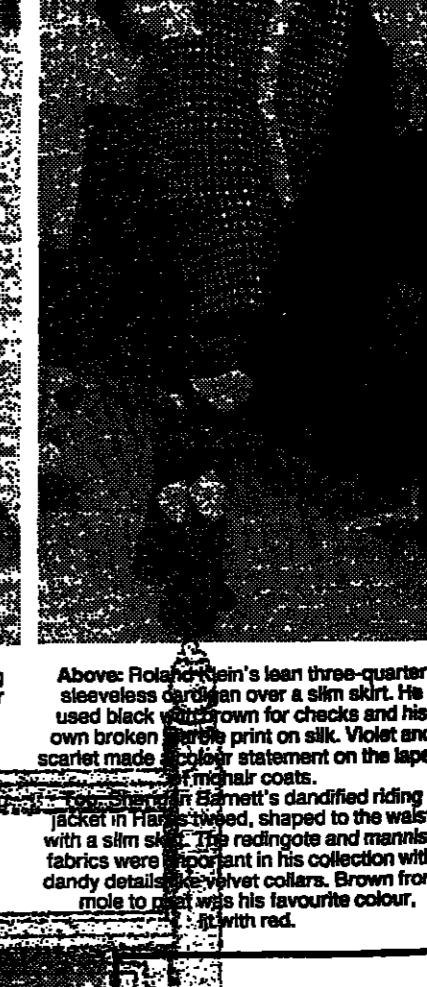
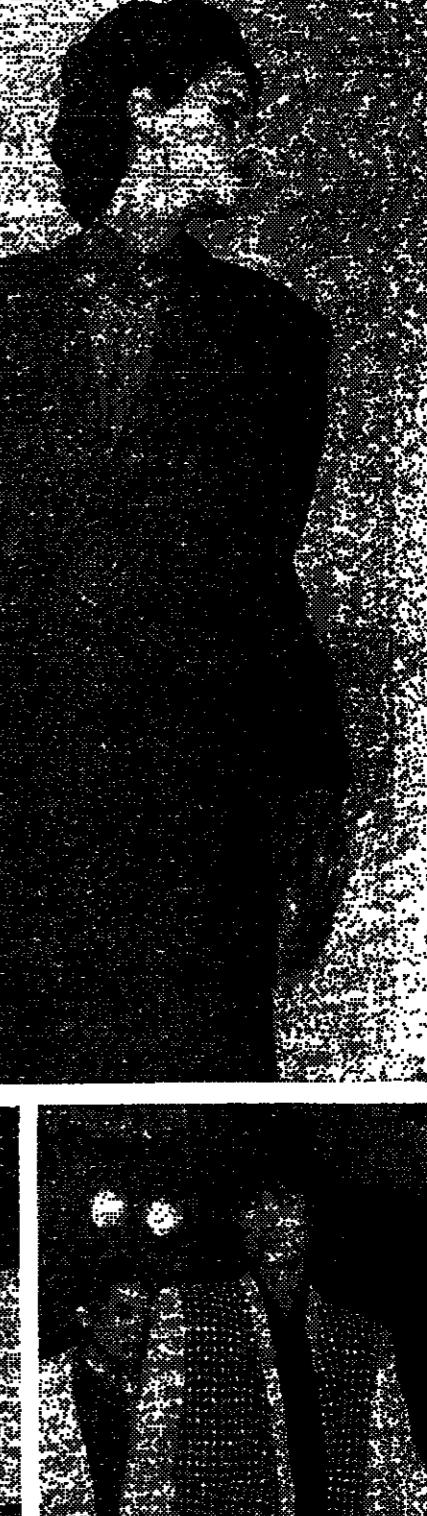
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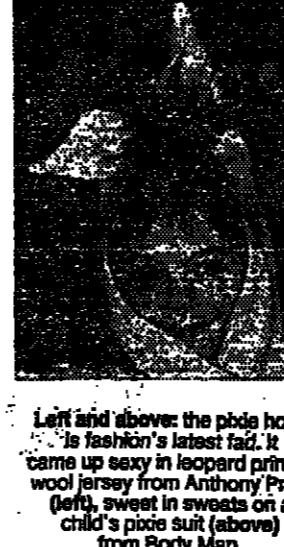
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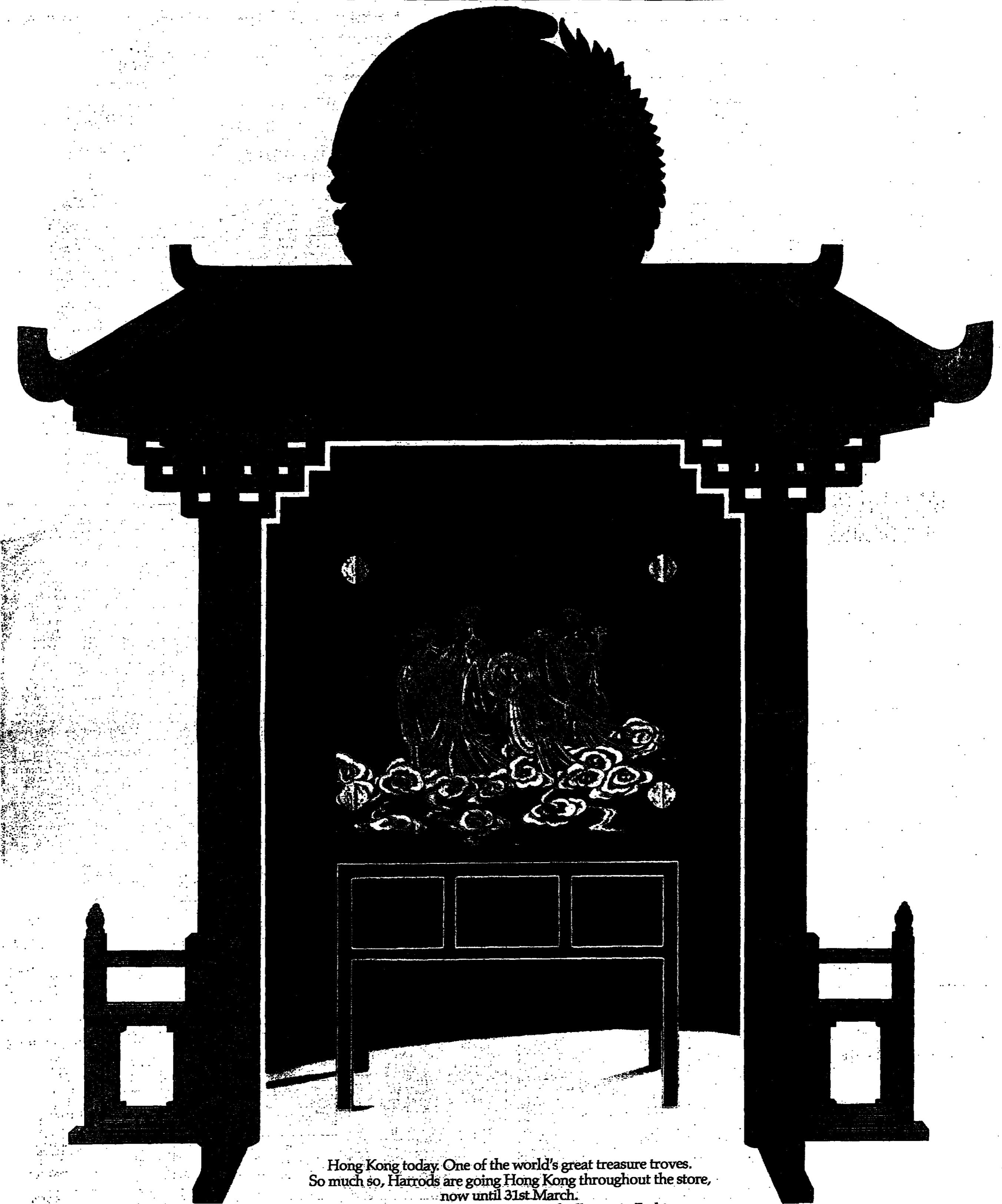


Left and above: the pique hood is fashion's latest fad. It came up sexy in leopard printed wool jersey from Anthony Price (left), sweet in sweets on a child's pique suit (above) from Body Map.

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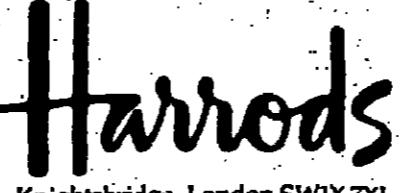
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SPECTRUM

Nicholas Shakespeare discovers more of Europe's displaced royals

Compton Miller talks to a man who will make records on an uninhabited island

Facelift for a Virgin

Spray soaks the passengers of the sleek white and gold-hulled "Cigarette" powerboat as we skim through the Sir Francis Drake Channel. Ahead lies Necker Island, a tiny Caribbean atoll that will soon echo to the beat of the world's top rock musicians. Behind this electronic Robinson Crusoe fantasy lies Richard Branson, multi-millionaire founder of Virgin Records and the now cut-price Virgin Atlantic Airline. He is investing more than £2,500,000 in a remote, previously uninhabited volcanic island. He believes rock bands will queue up to hire a studio that provides them with the latest computer technology, the luxury of a five-star hotel and solitude of a private estate. The only snag is getting there.

Necker is in the British Virgin Islands, about 200 miles from the nearest international airport at San Juan in Puerto Rico. From there I had to fly to St Thomas in the US Virgin Islands and transfer to the Bimini Charger, a high-speed ferry that hurtles between the principal islands. For the final journey Branson's architect Jon Osman picked me up in Tortola, the British archipelago's capital.

Until 18 months ago wild goats and wild boar were the main inhabitants of 74-acre Necker. Since then labourers have dug a small harbour and jetty inside the dangerous coral reef, installed an electricity generator, built sewerage, water-storage and staff accommodation and almost completed Branson's hilltop winter palace.

When Boy George, Michael Jackson and the rest arrive here there will be 11 bedrooms for them and their families and entourage, a 65-foot swimming pool, floodlit tennis court, satellite communications system, solar water-heating and helipad. A refrigeration room will ensure enough lobsters, quail's eggs, kiwi-fruit and other delicacies to fuel the creative juices. The bar stocked with rock stars' essential cordials, champagne, bourbon and vodka, should also aid the hit-making process. A yacht will patrol the waters to repel over-inquisitive tourists and journalists.

The busy tycoon has only visited Necker three times. He bought it six years ago from an English educational trust set up by Geoffrey Cobham, son of the aviation pioneer.

"I had no intention of buying an island," recalls Branson, aged 34. "But I was in New

Italy: enjoys the Palio by telephone



Known to his relations as Uncle Beppo, and to his people as the May King, Umberto II of Italy ruled for little more than that month in 1946. Ousted by a referendum, which identified the House of Savoy rather too closely with the fascists, he spent his remaining years near Lisbon. At the Villa Italia he wrote five volumes on the portraits prints and medals of the House of Savoy and became a tourist attraction for visiting Italians.

"So you want to see Umberto?" Indeed, I told the odd little philosopher, I did. Though I had spotted the last King of Italy at embassy parties tapping his feet to various orchestras and bobbing his domed head to bowing guests, he was always closely attended by an entourage. My letters requesting an audience received polite refusals and lobbying from mutual friends produced no reaction. "Well, you won't get very far until you sign your name in his visitors' book. He looks at it every evening."

That afternoon I walked up the drive to the Villa Italia, a pink house on a stretch of coastline known as the Boca do Inferno - the mouth of hell. And in the hall, beneath a portrait of Victor Emmanuel III, I added my name to a lengthy list of Italian well-wishers. Some days later I received a phone call from a Count Monasterolo. His Majesty would be pleased to grant me an audience.

A week later I was ushered into the presence of a tall, bald man. His dark suit hung crumpled from him. As I bowed, he shook hands, smiling, and indicated a chair. His smile seemed a permanent feature. When he spoke he leaned into the corner of his seat rubbing his long fingers together.

To start with, I was worried about the extent to which I could ask questions. It had been made clear that this was to be an audience, not an interview. Also, by a sustained piece of stage management, of closed doors and suspicious counts, Umberto came across as every inch a king. Little daylight penetrated the windows of the Villa Italia, and the magic was, by and large, intact.

"I am a great admirer of your queen," he began in a high-pitched voice. "I saw her lately and looking very well." Did he then, I ventured, think monarchy had a future?

"There are few royal families left now. When I came there was the royal family of Spain, the royal family of France and my Austrian cousins, the Habsburgs, who had to leave Hungary. So we were a big group. And then the Duke of Braganza was allowed to come back. Now they've all gone back to their countries, except the Duke of Braganza."

Was he able to keep in contact with his own country? "I've got a big office in Rome where all the press is sent. I am in touch with them more or less every day; a lot of faithful supporters."

Every year, he told me, he listened on the telephone to the sound of cheers



Heirs and graces: Umberto and family in 1946, top; Leka of Albania and wife, above left; Alexander of Yugoslavia

which sent the horses racing round the town square of Siena for the Palio. To be banished from Italy was "very, very frustrating, a very sad feeling". The busloads who arrived to take snaps of him and sign his book were some consolation. "They're all I've got to look forward to." But every month for him was May 1946. "I remember it very well, every detail. And I remember very well those who were with me at that time." He nodded silently, his eyes straying. For an instant the smile dissolved.

Umberto the fourth and last king of Italy, did not live to see his land again. He died in Geneva on March 18, 1983 with the words "Italy" on his lips.

The throne that sits in a Turin museum is unlikely to be occupied by

man - myself, and what - what great fun."

It was as a lieutenant in the British army that he received news of his father's death in Denver, Colorado. There was a move to make him king, "a rather absurd move by some very royal monarchs. As I said, King of what? I could not be king because there was no parliament to ratify the situation and above all the country wasn't a democracy". There were two other reasons. He was a member of the Queen's Royal Lancers and a naturalized British subject.

Alexander had joined the army in 1965, after an education at Gordonstoun, where he was in the same house as Prince Charles and Millie, "which was much better". He served with a tank division in Germany, became army champion and spent six months in County Tyrone.

Today he works for an insurance company in Washington, DC under the name of Alexander Karageorgevich, "because it puts most people at ease". He has not completely forgotten his inheritance though. "One's got to be a realist, but I think it's a going concern. I think it's a solution for uniting the country - all the different ethnic groups. Yugoslavia's in a terrible mess. There should be an alternative government and I would welcome a chance to be part of that, to see the democratic process return. I'm not a confirmed monarchist, but I do believe there is great admiration and support for my family there. On Moscow Radio they call me the Naked Prince, the Prince of Nothing. What an honour. And in Yugoslav papers, too, they lie about me forming a government in exile. But at least they mention me. There's even some idea I should go back as a puppet and endorse the regime on television, but I wouldn't do that."

For Alexander, exile is not too awful. As an insurance executive he knows the odds against becoming king. As a insurance executive he also knows that odd things happen. Once a week he has a lesson in Serbo-Croatian case.

"If the US and Britain had given their full backing to my father, we would be a democracy today," Alexander told me confidently at his father-in-law's house near Seville. His accent was a mixture of public school and the army, well-sauced with words like "disaster", "terrific", "marvellous". "I'm not saying that we wouldn't have problems - all countries have problems - but it would have been very different and that much better for Europe". What did he think of his father's plan to join up with the resistance leader General Mihailovic? He smiled. "It would have been marvellous. The fairy-tale come true. The king coming down in his parachute. I just hope he would have landed all right." Did he regret that King Peter never made the jump? "I do, because I was a military

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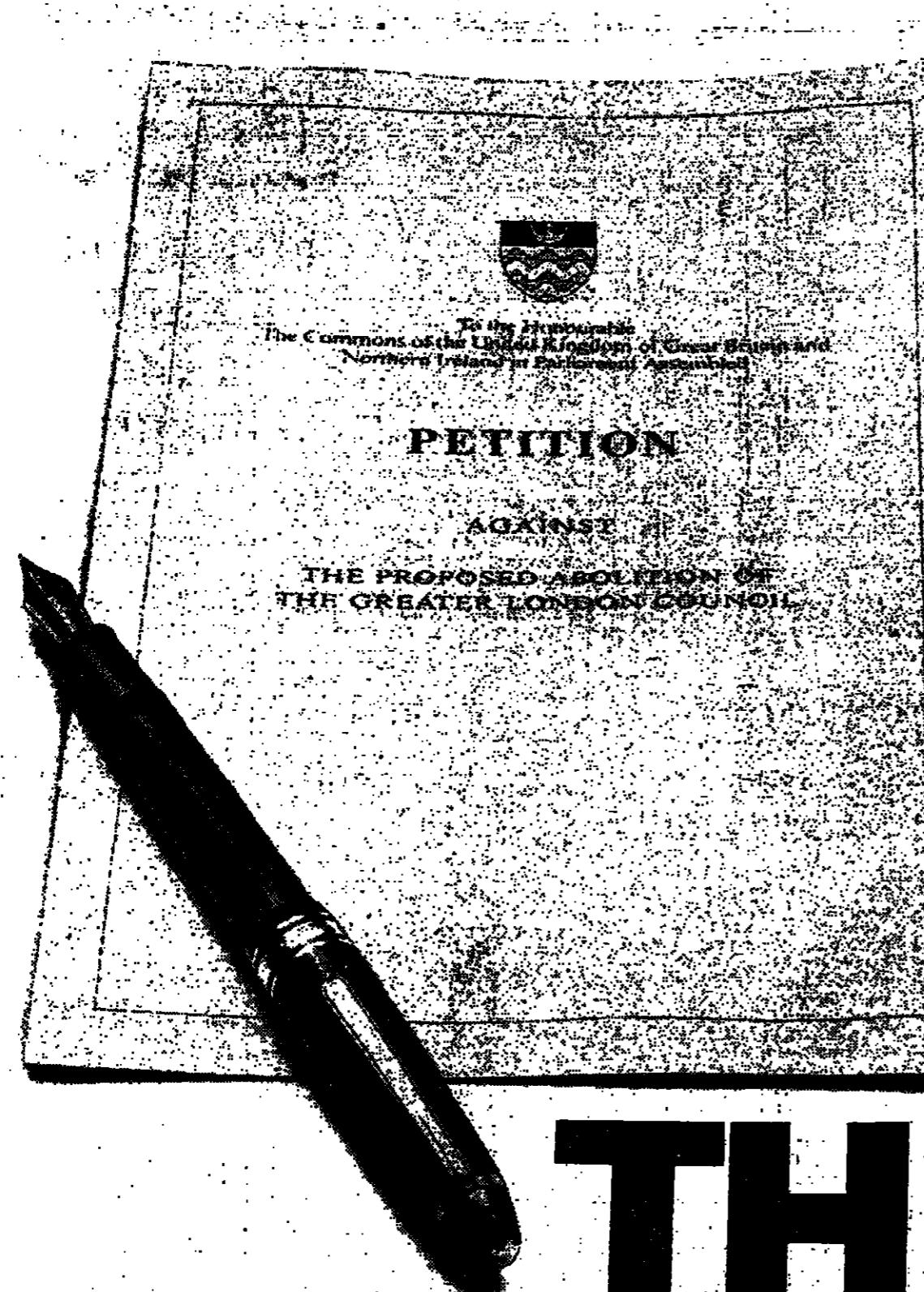
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THE TIMES DIARY

Anger and Rage

As the Government's April 2 deadline to evict the Greenham Common Campers approaches, I can reveal that the so-called peace women have an ally: the Angry Brigade, the anarchist group responsible for a series of bombings between 1968 and 1971. Yesterday, Dr Tom Gibson, a retired GP and a leader of Rage, Ratsayers Against Greenham Encampment, told me his home in Eccleshall, Newbury, had been threatened by the brigade following a series of advertisements in the *Newbury Weekly News*, in which he asked locals to register their support. One reader has described them "as the sort of advert Nazis would have used against the Jews and the Ku Klux Klan against their black countryfolk."

In the letter, now in the hands of the police, the Angry Brigade accuse Dr Gibson of supporting the "selfish, decadent powermongers." "We don't like it. If you carry on putting Rage advertisements in against Greenham women in the *Newbury Weekly News*, you had better watch your back. SCUM. Watch your property. Property is theft. It is seized. Angry Brigade Resistance Movement. Anarchy. Peace. Freedom."

Top of the Popes

Pope John Paul II is set to become a pop star. Ten poems, written when he was Bishop Karol Wojtyla, have just been set to music, and two of them, "Armaments Factory Worker" and "The Synod", are set to make the Italian charts. Neither, I am told, are likely to set the Rimini disco floors throbbing. The worker in the armaments factory laments that, "though what I create is all wrong, the world's evil is none of my doing," while "The Synod" reflects on a Second Vatican Council that left its participants "poor and naked". Methinks more Leonard Cohen than Rafaela Carra.

Party program

Kinnock was not batting for Britain when he installed a new spelling checker for his party's computer at the Walworth Road HQ. Being an American machine, it rejected the word "Labour", and had him billed as leader of the Labor party. Programmers are awaiting with relish to punch in the real teaser: Tory.

BARRY FANTONI



"My dad's sort of in the air force, too - he's a flying picker!"

Flat Heals

The Thirties Society are not amused by the designs of Sir Terence Conran. He is about to rip out the elegant curved windows of Heals' - which has just added to his Habitat empire - and replace them with flat ones. Sir Terence, who started his career as a window dresser at Simpsons behind one of the only other examples of the Thirties windows, is doing it for the money. To sell furniture, the goods have to be seen. Ironic, really, since Sir Terence sponsors the Boilerhouse project in the Victoria and Albert Museum, which was established to foster the study of design.

Otherwise

Christopher Bosanquet, a publicity agency drafted in to clean up Dartington Hall's sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll image, kicks off the campaign with "surprising" teasers from staff and pupils in a leaflet entitled "Here We Stand", to be published today. Roger Tilbury, the new joint headmaster, who was sworn by the agency to secrecy over the leaflet's contents, would describe the new regime only as "liberal, but other things as well". I can't imagine.

Tightly corked

In a desperate effort to ensure against injunctions from angered parties, preview copies of Michael Leaman's book *Treachery*, about TV-am, will be sent only to a select band of reviewers who pledge total secrecy. Even with that precaution, George Allen & Unwin are refusing to forward copies until a day or two in advance of publication day, April 5. Yesterday Leaman was persuaded to disclose at least one titbit from his cloak-and-dagger operation. Not surprisingly, it concerns the antics of the deposed chairman, Peter Jay, in whose office cupboard, brimming with champagne bottles was discovered by the new regime, who thought their suspicions of extravagant living were confirmed. In? *Treachery*, however, such allegations are denied. The apparently abstemious Jay insisted that the booty remained there intact for a celebratory occasion. But like Jay, even vintages go off.

PHS

From Saltley to the Nottinghamshire coalfield: control of the flying pickets could be a new benchmark in curbing industrial disputes, argues Peter Hennessy



Have the miners been nailed?

As news filtered back to Whitehall yesterday morning from the coalfields of Nottingham, Lancashire and the Midlands indicating that 44 pits, about a quarter of the national total, were working normally, it looked to officials that that a 12-year-old demon exorcism.

Since the 1972 coal strike, every civil contingency planner in Whitehall has had the words "Saltley Coke Depot" engraved on their heart. In the second week of February that year, Saltley contained the country's last substantial stockpile of coal. It was closed after a struggle involving at peak moments 800 police and 15,000 massed secondary pickets. The event changed the landscape of industrial relations in Britain for a decade. It became the symbol of naked trade union power used ruthlessly and successfully.

Saltley caused a fundamental rethink in Whitehall. It led to the dismantling of the old Home Office Emergencies Committee and the foundation of the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) in the Cabinet Office. The CCU remains Whitehall's "doomwatch" organization. It keeps constantly updated files on 16 essential industries and services, assesses their vulnerability to trades disputes and the degree of relief that can be won by policing or by putting in troops as alternative labour.

The CCU is not in the lead on the current coal dispute. With between four and six months' supplies of coal stockpiled at the power stations, plus an equivalent supply of the essential chemicals needed for electricity generation, the issue is not one that could require a state of emergency under the Emergency Powers Act, 1920 in the medium-

term at least. It is being treated in Whitehall as primarily a law and order issue, hence the attention devoted to the National Recording Centre at New Scotland Yard from which the rapid reinforcement, using 7,000 officers of local police forces in the coalfields is being coordinated.

But the Cabinet Office planners, Mr David Goodall and Brigadier Tony Budd, are important members of the team briefing Mrs Thatcher's ad hoc committee on the coal dispute. And it will be the CCU which will have to revise the intelligence appraisals in its coal file when the dispute is over. Current Cabinet office evaluations are sanguine.

They recognize the importance of legislation enacted by the Thatcher administration banning secondary picketing and a substantial change in the climate of industrial relations since the winter crisis of 1979 that brought down the government of Mr James Callaghan. There are, however, no illusions about the possibility of direct action in defiance of the law, the Government and public opinion causing severe problems in the future. If, for example, the Yorkshire miners, assisted by large numbers of sympathetic trade unionists, decided to besiege the big coal-burning power stations in the Trent Valley and the Doncaster area - the backbone of the national electricity grid - there is very little the chief constables of Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire could do on the day to make sure supplies were not affected if the workforce could not enter the premises.

The ability of police forces since the riots of 1981 to assist each other very swiftly with well-equipped and trained officers has proved crucial to

the shift in the balance of power in outbreaks of violent, or potentially violent industrial disorder of which yesterday's events provide the most convincing evidence to date. It is most unlikely that Mr Leon Brittan's memoirs will contain any passage comparable to Mr Maudling's.

But ministers can be notoriously wobbly on such matters, oscillating between premature euphoria and unjustified despair. There is still a need for confidence-building measures to be seen to be effective at.

The sharp end of the picket lines the Government must consolidate its advantage. It could all unravel very rapidly if the flying pickets regain the initiative and official resolve crumbles.

There is no sign of that at the moment. The chief constables are determined to rid themselves of the stigma of Saltley. Mr Peter Joslin, Chief Constable of Warwickshire, said on Sunday: "We are no pushover. Enough is enough." The impression left at the Scotland Yard press conference was that the police were the men and the nationally coordinated tactics too.

Mr Scargill has always seen such confrontations as a war, "a class war" in which you "attack the vulnerable points", the power stations and coal depots. As chairman of the Barnsley Area Strike Committee of the NUM in 1972, he invented the new weapon of the massed flying secondary picket. It could be that the authorities have, at last, developed an effective defence in depth. If they have, March 19, 1984, will rank with February 10, 1972, the day Saltley was closed, as a benchmark in the history of industrial relations.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

The bottomless pit at the end of the rainbow

(Particularly, I may say, since the lady seems to have an exceptionally nice one; she has just said that she feels no resentment for the father of her child, that although he is not himself married, "it would not be right to name him", and that she will not be asking him for money.) But what interests me, and provides my real theme, is not the lady's original action, nor her present misfortunes, but the bit in between.

Why shouldn't the lady expect a crock of gold

The immediate consequence of her action was her launching, on a sea of *réclame*, into a many-sided new life (she had been, until the next day, an assistant in a bookshop). She made a pop record; she opened a boutique; offers of modelling engagements fell thick and fast upon her doormat.

Note carefully the constituent elements of her new triple career; its nature almost incredibly representative of the froth and bubble that this age mistakes for substance.

The characteristic sound of our time and place is the howling and gibbering of pop singers; its characteristic product is the shoddy of the Kings Road and Carnaby Street; its characteristic activity is posing, with expressionless faces, for the cameras of advertising photographers.

The innocent young lady at Twickenham had noticed, as had the rest of us, these phenomena, and had noticed, again like others, that many of those engaged in such trades had become successful and rich - some of them, indeed, rich almost beyond imagining.

Why should she not believe the agents and promoters, the spivs and *tumblers*, who told her that she was no less gifted than the successful ones (which was probably true), and could therefore become no less rich?

You can conjugate it as an irregular verb: I am a pop-singer, you own a boutique, she models, we are successful and rich. Why indeed should not the Lady of Twickenham believe that there is a crock of gold at the end of the rainbow, when in our society a bishop scurries across the country to sit at the feet of Mr Mick Jagger and nod sagely at his ample lips?

That is not my view, of course. If it was Providence that punished the lady in that fashion, Providence must have a singularly nasty mind.

Everyone seems to think, she says in recounting her disillusion-

ment, "that because I'm famous I must be rich." That ought to be carved on the twentieth century's tombstone, not because the lady has so painfully spotted the fallacy, but because she has so artlessly, yet so truly, defined what today is fame. It is to make records so understanding of emotion, thought or music that they will get listed in the "charts"; it is to sell "designer jeans" and "costume jewellery" (if there is any more room on the tombstone those phrases ought to be added); it is to narrow the eyes and point one hip and find the resultant picture amid the glossy trash of the latest *greatest property* magazine; for that matter, it is to find the proprietor of the latest *greatest property* magazine appointed Rector of the Royal College of Art.

As it chanced, the lady in this case failed to become rich. The boutique did not find favour, the record did not sell millions of copies, the modelling offers did not continue; she now, presumably, knows what song the sirens sang. But it might so easily have been otherwise. In our era some have become millionaires by putting rubbishy records on gramophones; others have made even greater fortunes by gyrating to the records in "discotheques".

Attractive young women have ensured themselves a place in the history books, or at any rate *Madame Tussaud's*, by looking half-dart for hours on end in a photographic studio. Who will dare say that the young lady of Twickenham was barbed from such glories by lack of talent?

We live in a world composed not only of froth

And where was the lesson taught that was thus dearly learned? Who told the disc jockeys and the boutique-owners and the gossip columnists and the disco-dancers and the models that gold at the end of the rainbow there was gold to be got for the stooping? Why, those who, in the older arts, cotted on much earlier to the fact that imagination, hard work and the stuff of creation were no longer necessary for success.

Do you curl your lip at those who seek fame and fortune through the dubious portals of publicity? Then be prepared to encompass a good deal more in your curl.

*All that glitters is not gold;
Often have you heard that told;
Many a man his life hath sold
But my outside to behold;
Gilded tombs do worms infold.
Had you been as wise as bold,
Young in limbs in judgment old,
Your answer had not been inscroll'd;
Fare you well; your suit is cold.*

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Robin Cook

When the banker should say Non

Community and this is surely the moment when any competent banker could secure the upper hand in negotiations. Instead, we actually appear further away than at Athens from securing British objectives.

One objective was reform of the CAP. Yet as the months have passed, the Government's proposals instead of gaining in clarity have become even more vacuous. Reform itself has disappeared from the vocabulary of negotiation and been replaced by the longer but more limited phrase "effective control of expenditure".

Yet the recent agriculture settlement plainly does not meet even this more modest objective. Its most striking feature is that at a time when it is agreed on all sides that the Community is about to run out of money, the agricultural ministers have come up with a package that will add £500m to the budget proposed by the longer but more limited objective.

It is easy to understand the reason why ministers switch between optimism and pessimism. Mrs Thatcher has earned her reputation in the adamantine stone of resolution, determination and conviction, and all the signs suggest that she is now strongly tempted to take advantage of confrontation in the Common Market to perform a display ritual of those qualities, nicely timed to boost ratings for the coming Euro elections. On the other hand both she and Sir Geoffrey Howe have been in constant negotiation in pursuit of a European deal for almost a year since the Stuttgart summit.

This in turn places an obligation on them to show they have achieved something for all this diplomatic effort, while inability to reach agreement would confirm they have failed to shift our continental partners from their resolute approach. If the stakes were not so high it would be quite entertaining to observe our senior ministers seeking to reconcile the paradox that they have succeeded in defending British interests through failing over three successive summits to obtain a deal that secures British interests.

Moreover, if ever there was an opportunity for a settlement favourable to Britain it is now. Without a settlement, the Common Market will be bankrupt by the autumn. The looming financial debacle was underlined by President Thorn when he confirmed that by the end of March the Community will have spent 40 per cent of its current budget, only 25 per cent of the way through the year.

As Mrs Thatcher is wont to remind us, Britain bankrolls the Livingstone.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

Roger Scruton

A toast to old wine – and old manners

Many explanations could be offered for the decline in serious sherry drinking; perhaps the most obvious is the decline of serious sherry. Less obvious perhaps, but no less important, has been the long-term effect of King Edward VII's sale, in 1901, of 60,000 bottles of vintage sherry, judged "surplus to royal requirements" – a gesture which caused the following comment from Queen:

The business capacity of His Majesty has shown itself by ordering that sale, while the memory of his august mother is most vivid among us; for there is no doubt that, allowing for a certain quantity of the liquor going to the dealers, the greater part of it will find its way to the cellars of the *vieux et nouveaux riches*, who will offer it to their guests as a kind of historic beverage. The truth is that sherry has "aged" in a day or two among connoisseurs of wine, and also among better class women, albeit that few of the latter could have given an adequate, still less a gastronomical, reason for preferring it to the French dry wines ... such as Bourgogne, Montrachet or Côtes du Rhône blanc.

One assumes that the last-named wine was not the bland potion currently sold under that label, but white Hermitage, which may indeed sometimes bear comparison with the greatest dry white wine of all. But where would one now find a bottle of serious sherry? Or, for that matter, a bottle of the best white Hermitage? The answer is discreetly contained in the records of the royal auction. A certain Mr Berry, having quietly bid throughout the proceedings, carried home in triumph, at a price too appalling to disclose, the last nine dozen bottles. Part of the royal surplus thus found a temporary home in the cellars of a wine merchant who has remained to this day one of the few reliable purveyors of the drink which the royal liver could no longer tolerate.

I hesitate to sing the praises of Berry Bros and Rudd Ltd. Those who know the discreet shop in St James's Street, London SW1, will be appalled at the sacrifice involved in publicizing its existence. Those who do not know it are probably suffering from some moral deficiency – perhaps even from a lack of interest in wine – which must surely lead to a double charge of sacrifice against the writer who would share such precious information with infidels. However, the example set by Berry's is so important that I hope to be excused, if not for my methods, at least for my meaning. For Berry's is one of the few remaining businesses conducted entirely according to a moral idea, in which personal association and respect for the merchandise take precedence over anything that might be called a "market force".

From time immemorial Berry's has stocked a most extraordinary white Hermitage, and it is with this vintage that I now drink a toast to the old habits of commerce, habits which, properly guarded, may still resist the market forces which elsewhere have eroded them.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 19: The Queen, with the Duke of Edinburgh, this evening honoured with her presence the Royal Film Performance. *The Dresser* in aid of the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund (President, Mr Sydney W. Samuelson) at the Odeon Theatre, Leicester Square.

The Countess of Airlie, Mr Robert Fellowes and Major Hugh Lindsey were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
March 19: The Duke of Kent, a Liverymen of The Mercers' Company, this evening dined with the Master and Wardens of the Court at Ironmonger Lane, London, EC2.

Sir Richard Buckley was in attendance.

The Duke and Duchess of Bedford very much regret that they were unable to attend the memorial service for Dr Cecil Eppel yesterday owing to absence abroad.

Princess Anne, President of the British Olympic Association, will be present at a gala dinner to be held by the North East Region Group at the Civic Centre, Newcastle, on April 3. The Queen will visit the Life Guards at Windsor on April 4.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, will attend a dinner given to celebrate the anniversary of the granting of a Royal Charter at Guildhall on April 30.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr L. M. Cheshire and Miss K. M. Atherton

The engagement is announced between Ian Michael, son of Mr and Mrs D. G. M. Cheshire, of Deanswood, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, and Kate Margaret, daughter of Mr E. J. Atherton and Mrs D. J. Atherton, of Glenaspel, Patrick, Isle of Man.

Mr R. T. Ernest-Jones and Miss J. C. Swain

The engagement is announced between Richard Terence, son of Mr and Mrs E. H. Ernest-Jones, of Beechtree, Burstead Close, Cobham, Surrey, and Julia, daughter of Mrs P. Swain and the late Mr P. F. Swain, of 48 Belgrave Mews North, London.

Mr A. A. Golemas and Miss P. C. Davison

The engagement is announced between Arigis, son of Mr and Mrs Anastasios Golemas, of Sarantia, Greece, and Paula Claire, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John David, of Arkley Hall, Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Mr A. H. J. D. Mackay and Miss D. E. Foley

The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of the late Mr. M. Mackay and Mrs. Tim Bradley, and Stephen Major, of Bicester, Oxfordshire, and Diana, daughter of the late Dr J. M. B. Foley and Mrs S. L. Foley, of The White House, Rotherfield, Sussex.

Latest wills

Estate valued at

more than £1.4m

Sir Ian Peter Andrew Moore Walker-Owen, Bart, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, left estate valued at £1,401,792 net. He left £1,000 each to the parishes of Osmaston and Mapleton, in Derbyshire.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Adams, Mr John William George, of Old Stratford, Northamptonshire £221,291

Bowling, Mr Edmund, of Chorley £875,055

Latest appointments

Mr Peter Hughes, Head Master of St Peter's School, York, to be head of science at Westminster School.

The following appointments have been made in the Ministry of Defence:

Mr J. Roberts, to be Assistant Under Secretary (Civilian Management) (Administrators), from Feb 17.

Mr N. H. Nicholls, to be Assistant Under Secretary (Air Staff), from Feb 27.

Mr C. H. Head, to be Director General Ordnance Factories Organisation and Planning, from Mar 1.

Mr Kenneth West, aged 53, to be managing director of the board of the Thames Water Authority from May 1.

KENSINGTON PALACE

March 19: The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon attended the Third Westminster Spring Festival Daffodil Day Rally at the Central Hall Westminster, London.

The Hon Mrs Munro was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

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Mr D. N. Lawrence and Miss S. D. Grayson

The engagement is announced between Daniel Nathan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs E. J. Lawrence, of Alcoa, Tennessee, and Sally Diane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. G. Grayson, of Darley Dale, Derbyshire.

Mr G. H. Lock and Miss R. E. Boyce

The marriage will take place on April 28, at Lincoln's Inn, between Greg, son of Mr and Mrs E. Lock, of Toneyrefail, Glamorgan, and Rosie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs C. H. A. Boyce, of Uppingham, Rutland.

Mr C. Morris and Miss G. R. Petrie

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs K. G. Morris, of St Lawrence, Veninor, Isle of Wight, and Gillian Ruth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs G. D. Petrie, of Dowlish Wake, Somerset.

Mr S. O'Dowen and Miss S. H. Walcott

The engagement is announced between Sean, younger son of Squadron Leader G. W. O'Dowen, DSO, DFC, and Mrs O'Dowen, of Semley, Dorset, and Susan Hamilton, third daughter of the late Mr S. C. H. Walcott and of Mrs Walcott, of North Holmwood, Dorking.

Mr J. F. Stott and Miss S. J. Haworth

The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. F. Stott, of Pewsey, Wiltshire. Charlotte, second daughter of Mr and Mrs N. Allan, Haworth, of Organdale, Kellsall, Cheshire.

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Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother, visiting St Columba's for the foundation stone ceremony in 1950, and (right) Dr Fraser McLuskey preparing for the Queen's visit tomorrow.



Scots 'cathedral' celebration

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Queen, the only person in the country who is allowed to be simultaneously a full member of the Church of England and the Church of Scotland, will tomorrow be celebrating the Scottish church's presence in the English capital.

St Columba's, Pont Street, sometimes called Scotland's Cathedral in London, will be marking its centenary with a royal service, one more bond between the church and the Royal Family.

What must distinguish it more than anything else from all other churches in London is the sheer breadth of its facilities, from an old people's home to a 'soup kitchen', from badminton and tennis to a literary circle, a Scottish dancing club, a club for the 18-to-30s, a Sunday school, a creche, and a weekly children's service.

Any Scotsman in London on Sunday who attends the morning service is invited to stay to lunch, provided and run by volunteers in the congregation. Dr McLuskey said: "When you put a Scot out of his native land, he becomes more Scottish. The Church of Scotland has found a mission for herself in London."

Appointments

The Very Rev P. J. Anderson, to be Surveyor Clerk and Canon of St James's, Piccadilly, to succeed the Rev P. J.

The Rev G. C. Handford, Vicar of Northgate, Rural Dean of Tynedale and Southwell on Ecclesiastical Commission.

The Rev R. G. Hart, Vicar of Hartlepool, Rural Dean of Hartlepool, and Southwell on Ecclesiastical Commission.

The Rev S. Barrington-Ward, General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, to be Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen.

The Rev S. J. S. Webster, Rector of St James's, Piccadilly, to be Canon of St James's, Curate of St John's, Waterloo, and Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev D. B. Horan, Public Preacher in the Diocese of Southwark, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill, to succeed the Rev Robert Kerr.

The Rev C. F. Andrew, Diocesan Youth Officer of the Diocese of Southwark, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev R. G. Hart, Vicar of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev J. J. Davies, Priest-in-charge of St Peter's, Cheltenham, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev V. G. Gill, Headmaster of St Peter's School, Cheltenham, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev A. Haywood, Rector of St Peter's, Cheltenham, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev P. C. Hall, Assistant Curate of St Peter's, Cheltenham, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev R. G. Hart, Curate of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev J. J. Davies, Priest-in-charge of St Peter's, Cheltenham, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev K. S. McCormack, Vicar of St Peter's, Cheltenham, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev A. D. Murdoch, Curate of Great Tew, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev A. E. D. Murdoch, Curate of Great Tew, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev G. M. Newman, Curate of St Paul's, Cheltenham, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev E. S. Parker, Curate of Great Tew, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

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The Rev J. H. Tidy, Vicar of St Peter's, Cheltenham, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

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The Rev D. H. A. White, rector of St Paul's, Cheltenham, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev P. W. Winchester, Assistant Master of Broadstone Middle School, Dorset, and rector of St Paul's, Cheltenham, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

The Rev J. C. Vincent, Vicar of Southgate, to be Canon of St Paul's, Ludgate Hill.

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The Rev D. H. A. White, rector of St Paul

Rich variety of entries

COMPUTER HORIZONS

All our prize-winners

12-year-olds among Top Ten winners

A group of twelve-year-olds disease diagnosis, acoustic prizewinners in The Times National Microcomputer Challenge, whose judges have announced the ten regional winners.

The level of the 500 entries was high, and in many cases, the regional co-ordinators felt there was great potential for commercial use of many ideas of the projects entered to provide socially useful ideas. Projects ranged from a system to control diabetes diets to knitting patterns, integrated alarm systems, fish

part of the London Festival of Computing.

ROBERT BEATTIE, a sixteen-year-old student from Aberdeen, representing a 'Teach yourself to read' project, won first prize in the Scottish region, for an easy learning aid to reading, involving computer graphics and video tape.

Another student, eighteen-year-old JEFFREY COOKE from Derry, Northern Ireland, representing St Columb's College, gained a first prize in the North West and Northern Ireland, for a well thought-out project using acoustic braille. At present his group has an early prototype running, and this is proving useful to blind users, who are able to use a computer with sound instead of visual characters, and a simplified keyboard.

The social uses continue with the winner from the North East, MR W DAWSON, of Middlesbrough, with his entry on behalf of a resource unit at Beverley school for the Deaf in Middlesbrough. Their project involves recording sign language on disc, using light pens, and animation.

From Yorkshire and Humberside, the winner was ERNEST PHILLIPS, a building surveyor from Newby Clapham, N. Yorks. His entry was for a computer-controlled burglar alarm, which, connected to a standard security system, could then be linked via a telephone



THE MIDLANDS

1st R. Collins (Student 20) 'The Hawthorns', University of Keele, Keele, Staffs. Project: Educational software for retarded children. 2nd A. Thornton (Schoolboy 11) 'Greenways', Old Road, Ruddington, Nottingham. Project: Programme to help the aged memories. 3rd: Paramjit Singh (Student 16) 45 Oxford Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands. Project: Aid for speech deficiencies.

1st reserved: P. A. Bateman (RAF 48), Royal Air Force, Barnoldswick, Lancs. Project: Early warning system for aged. 2nd Reserve: P. P. Cooper (Student 16) 'Parsons Close', Oakham Road, Tilton on the Hill, Leicester. Project: 'Logies' secretary for the blind.

modern to a neighbour's computer or central police station.

ROBERT COLLINS, a 20-year-old student from Keele University, won first prize in the Midlands region for his submission for educational software for retarded children. The judges said the use of computers in special schools could have far-reaching effects. He has already started a project with two university departments to study the use of computers in these schools.

The normally time consuming task of calculating maintenance in matrimonial cases is covered in the first prize entry by solicitor DAVID GREEN from Castle Morris, near Haverfordwest, in the Welsh region.

The South West, normally a computer literate area, did not disappoint this time, and the judges added four commendations to the three winning entries. First prize was won by a Naval officer JON DINGLE from Plymouth. His entry, 'Bikesafe', uses the popular arcade style game to teach young motorcycle roadcraft and safety.

The only woman to gain a first prize is ROSEMARY CRAWFORD, organiser of the WRVS in Berkhamsted. She won the Northern Counties section with her proposal for computerising her local 'Meals on Wheels' service, keeping updates on rounds, customers' holidays, extra meals and another details.

JOHN ADRIAN, a twelve-year-old from Beckenham, headed a group of five boys from Kelsey Park school, Beckenham, to win first prize in the Southern Home Counties region with their entry to help dyslexics to read. Using computer graphics and repetitive points, children can be encouraged to overcome their difficulty.

Another anti-crime system

won first prize in the Greater London Section for MR T. G. WILLS-SANDFORD, whose proposal dealt with the use of a micro as an aid to home-beat policemen, maintaining easy reference files of keyholders, unattended premises, local crime trends, and simple word processing for local police newsletters.

To all those who took part in the competition we offer our thanks and to the winners our congratulations.

First prizewinners receive a BBC micro model B; second a £50 W. H. Smith voucher and third, a £30 voucher.

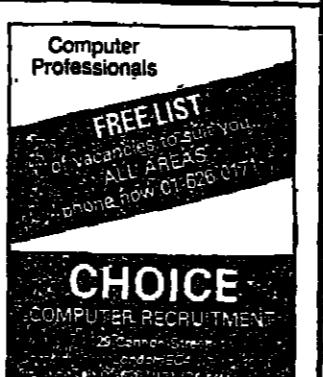
UK events

Microcomputer Applications Workshop, Computer Laboratory, Liverpool University, March 26, 27. Sinclair Education Exhibition, Central Hall, Westminster, March 28-30. Microcomputer Networks Workshop, Computer Laboratory, Liverpool University, March 27, 28. Electron & BBC Micro User Show, New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, London, March 29-April 1. Computer Aided Design, Met Exhibition Hall, April 3-5. Artificial Intelligence Seminar, City University, London, April 7-8. Sir Frederick Osborn School Computer Fair, Sir Frederick Osborn School, Welwyn Garden City, April 8. COMPAC WALES, Cardiff University, April 10-12. Computer for Builders Exhibition, Cavendish Conference Centre 82, New Cavendish Street, London W1, April 12. Personal Computer Games Show, Softhul Conference Centre, Birmingham, April 20-22.

Overseas

Hanover Fair, Hanover, Germany, April 4-11. Videotex '84, Hyatt Regency, Chicago, April 16-18. Computerised Office Equipment Exhibition, Rosemont, USA, May 1-3.

Compiled by Personal Computer News



The Times Microcomputer Challenge Regional Winners

SCOTLAND

1st Robert Beattie (Student 16) Allens Aberdeen. Project: Teach yourself to read 2nd Tariq Hamid (Schoolboy 17) 23 Barrachine Road Glasgow. Project: Read the written word aloud

3rd Rev C Brockie 51 Port Road Kilmarnock. Project: Deaf sign language

Reserve A Readie (Teacher 35)

16 Kingsea Road Dunfermline Fife. Project: Mountain rescue, survival

Reserve A G Imrah (Accountant 49)

Project: Mountain rescue, preventative

Commended R Clark (Biology 29)

c/o 'Stomdyke' Watt Road Bridge of Wier Renfrewshire. Project: Fish disease diagnosis

THE MIDLANDS

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JOHN ADRIAN, a twelve-year-old from Beckenham, headed a group of five boys from Kelsey Park school, Beckenham, to win first prize in the Southern Home Counties region with their entry to help dyslexics to read. Using computer graphics and repetitive points, children can be encouraged to overcome their difficulty.

Another anti-crime system

won first prize in the Greater London Section for MR T. G. WILLS-SANDFORD, whose proposal dealt with the use of a micro as an aid to home-beat policemen, maintaining easy reference files of keyholders, unattended premises, local crime trends, and simple word processing for local police newsletters.

To all those who took part in the competition we offer our thanks and to the winners our congratulations.

First prizewinners receive a

BBC micro model B; second a £50 W. H. Smith voucher and third, a £30 voucher.

THE NORTH AND N IRELAND

1st J E Cooke (Student 18) 215 Galliagh Park, Derry, N Ireland. Project: Acoustic braille

2nd Christine Cowper (Housewife/Teacher 41)

'The Vicarage', Coldeikie, Cockermouth, Cumbria.

Project: Community computers 2nd P. H. Williams (Electronic Engineer 29)

Guest Youth Workshop Ltd, 4D Linenthal Street, Belfast. Project: Intelligent computer switch

THE NORTH EAST

1st W Dawson (Illustrator 33) 40 Cambridge Road, Linton, Middleborough, Cleveland. Project: 'Total Communication' for the deaf

2nd D Rhodes (School master 47) 10 Tankerville Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne. Project: Diet/disease correlation

3rd G Sephton (Student 15) 11 Barass Drive, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear. Project: CAP protection/help

Reserve M. Douglas (Systems programmer 30)

28 Granville Street, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear. Project: Info advisory system

THE SOUTH WEST

1st J Dingle (Naval officer 26) Blanchard House, Golden Square, Colebrook, Plymouth. Project: Bikesafe

2nd D Rhodes (School master 47) 4 Bonwick Close, Panylion, Cardiff. Project: Social communication programme

3rd Jill C Hutt (Unemployed 38) 6 Greenland Crescent, Fairwater, Cardiff. Project: Enquiry stats programme for the homeless

THE SOUTHERN HOME COUNTIES

1st J Adrian (Student 12) c/o Kelsey Park School Manor Way, Beckenham Kent. Project: Helping dyslexics

2nd D Leighton (Student 15) 80 Wimott Way, Basinstoke Hants. Project: Medical info records

Reserve D. Irwin (Business creation 28) Project: North East

5 Saville Place, Newcastle upon Tyne. Project: 'Make your own job' self-employment.

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Our 100 million customers in over 100 countries make considerable demands on an already highly developed D.P. system - demands which we're

delighted to say continue to increase.

To help us maintain the capacity

and maintain system performance

essential to keeping us at the forefront

of travel related services, we are now

seeking a young professional with

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software upgrading to maximise the

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interpersonal skills are essential.

A salary reflecting the seniority of the

position will be supported by a range

of benefits you would expect of a

major international organisation

including mortgage subsidy and

relocation expenses to our Brighton

base, where appropriate.

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perform this vital role within a young

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Brighton, Sussex BN2 2LP.

Tel: (0273) 693555 ext. 5563.

The Times Microcomputer Challenge Regional Winners

Project: Microassisted speech therapy

Commended Pamela E Singleton (Students, both 15) George Abbot School Woodruff Avenue Burpham Guildford Surrey

Project: 'Break the barrier' - communication programme

Reserve N J Marsh (Unemployed 31) 11 Lavender Gardens Forest Chase Bordon Hants

Project: Highway code and road sense testing

Reserve P. Ebert (Executive 40) 5 Western Lane, Oldham Hants

Project: Diabetes diet control

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ACTUARIES INDICES	
L GROUP	521.11 (509.1)
INDEX	569.70 (575.2)
NGS YIELD	8.44% (8.52%)
YIELD	4.17% (4.16%)
(NET)	13.08 (14.08%)
E INDEX	524.10 (520.25)
YIELD	4.33% (4.28%)

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Prime pressure on sterling and gilts

American developments weighed heavily on the gilts market yesterday, as US prime rates rose by half a point across the board, the first increase since last August. Sterling took part of the strain, dropping at one stage through \$1.44, but gilt-edged prices sagged nevertheless. Shorts lost a quarter and longs closed down around a half. The American long bond traded some half a point easier in New York during the morning.

The crude market reaction to the jump in US interest rates is to depict it as part of a duel of Volcker v Reagan roadshow in which an intransigent Federal Reserve Board chairman is currently outslugging a vote-sensitive President. This is an oversimplification. As pointed out here last week, the regular monetary indicators have been throwing out signals which contradict readings provided by "real" economy data: a slowdown, for example, in M1 countered by a sharp rise in industrial production and housing starts.

On the face of it, the pick-up in the real economy ought to show through in a sharp rise in demand for credit, and there have been signs of this in recent weeks, with banks' reserves rising sharply. But the Fed funds rate has also been edging ahead, indicating that although the Fed has been willing to supply credit, it has refused to flood the market. It prefers a delicate balancing act.

In this context, increases in prime rates is important because they signal the pressure on credit. They are likely to have a sharp effect on expectations. These may well take a further jolt later in the week when GNP figures for the first quarter and February consumer prices are published. The market expects that the first quarter figure will show an annualized rise of some 6 per cent – certainly no indication that the economy is slowing down – while the Consumer Price Index may also suggest that US inflation is creeping up again.

In the gilts market yesterday opinion on the significance of the US prime rates rise was divided. Despite the fall in the market, the old argument about "decoupling" – "the UK can survive a rise in US rates" – was heard again, and it received a certain endorsement from hard facts in the market place. Stock that was sold was hard to buy back again.

But more bearish noises could also be heard, notably from brokers Phillips and Drew. They draw a sharp distinction between the movement in UK rates which, they suggest, owes much to political inspiration; and the USA, where the Fed is making a series of preemptive moves to help sustain the dollar. Meanwhile, the Bank of England sits quietly in the background, probably congratulating itself on staying out of the market last Friday, when conditions for a new tap looked so attractive. Nevertheless, although the Bank avoided the possible debacle of a stranded tap, immediately after a well-received Budget, it is a reasonable assumption that, sooner or later, the Government Broker will return to the market, in selling conditions which seem more likely to worsen than to improve.

One way out for the authorities, if they find themselves obliged to sell more debt, might be to evade the interest rate issue altogether by issuing deep discounted stock, with built-in capital gains, on dummy interest rates which are only tenuously linked to the US rate spiral.

Morgan Grenfell names its price

Morgan Grenfell, one of our top two merchant banks, has had another very profitable year. Disclosed profits after transfers to hidden reserves are up by a quarter to £16.5m. Investment management had a very successful year. Corporate finance has done particularly well with capital issues a record both by number and value. Last year, Morgan Grenfell underwrote about one quarter by value of

all rights issues in the domestic equity market.

Arguably, MG is just the kind of innovative and thrusting merchant bank which should be forming the nucleus of the new breed of investment banking and securities trading firms needed to keep the British flag flying against the big American and Japanese brokerage houses. Yet with the exception of S. H. Warburg, the independent merchant banks have so far not figured in the great securities industry shake-up.

The reason is simple enough. The asking prices for brokers and jobbers are being bid up too far. Not even Morgan Grenfell can compete in a sellers' market against Barclays Bank which recently tied in with the jobbers Wedd Durlacher and the brokers de Zoete & Bevan, nor against County Bank and Samuel Montagu, two merchant banks with the resources of joint stock banks behind them.

Is Morgan Grenfell disappointed at not getting a slice of Wedd Durlacher? (they did talk) according to Lord Catto, chairman of Morgan Grenfell Holdings, "not at that price." He seemed to have a fair idea what the price was (estimates suggest that Barclay's deal valued Wedd at £100m upwards), the amount of goodwill was clearly large.

Morgan Grenfell's strategy in the present climate is to develop as a market-maker and distributor of all fixed interest securities which it issues or is likely to issue, as well as becoming a trader in the gilts market. A lesser priority, but still a possibility is trading in the equity market.

Recent moves to strengthen the bank's capability in the secondary Eurobond market is part of this thrust. As to how the rest of the strategy is put into effect, Morgan Grenfell claims to be still making up its mind.

BR puts Sealink on the slipway

Meanwhile, Morgan Grenfell was in action on another front yesterday, when, in its capacity as adviser to British Rail, it formally started the auction for Sealink, the latest candidate in the Government's privatization programme. Stock that was sold was hard to buy back again.

The bank last night wrote to more than 30 potential bidders setting out the terms on which British Rail's ferry and harbour business will be sold, and asking for firm displays of interest within the next 14 days. British Rail will then draw up a shortlist and provide those companies with a confidential memorandum about Sealink's profitability and financial state of health.

Trafalgar House, P & O, Sea Containers and European Ferries (whose bid for Sealink was blocked by the Monopolies Commission three years ago) have all expressed interest in buying Sealink. A consortium consisting of the National Freight Consortium – itself denationalized not so long ago – and the management of Sealink is also interested. It promises to be a lively auction.

Yesterday's announcement disclosed that Sealink made a profit before interest and tax last year of £12.8m, a considerable improvement on the previous year's £2.9m. Turnover was up from £232.5m to £264.8m. These figures are not that meaningful however, given the huge amount of debt in Sealink's balance sheet. Interest payments in 1982 amounted to £9.3m, enough to turn Sealink's pre-tax profit into an overall loss.

BR did say, however last night that the amount of debt in the balance sheet, which includes £48.5m owed to British Rail on intercompany account and £26m of unsecured loan stock, would be part of the negotiations with would-be bidders. If any of the debt were to be written off, it would have a significant impact on what bidders might be prepared to pay for Sealink.

Market estimates in the past have put the value at between £70m and £100m, down to £50m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bid to avert Argentine debt crisis

Hopes of avoiding a huge Argentinian debt crisis, now rest on an eleventh hour meeting next week between the International Bank Advisory committee and Argentinian economics minister Senator Bernardo Grinspun at the seaside resort of Punta del Este.

The city is host to this year's annual meeting of the Washington-based Inter-American Development Bank. Top of the agenda will be Argentina's delicate debt position.

At present, Argentina is \$2.7 billion in arrears on interest payments. If these are not reduced by March 31, Argentina will be more than 90 days in arrears forcing US banks to drastically cut their first quarter profit figures.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$392.15 pm \$393.80
close \$394.25-\$394.75 (£273.25-274.75)
New York (latest): \$946.00
Krueger-Baud (per coin):
408-407.50 (£281.25-282.25)
Sovereigns (new):
\$92.93 (£63.75-64.50)
*Excludes VAT

Bassett bolsters defence

By Jonathan Clare

Bassett Foods, maker of the famous liqueur ailsors, has forecast first-half profits of £1.02m to reinforce its rejection of the all-share bid from Avana Group, the Cardiff-based food company.

But the big institutional

shareholders, which include M&G Recovery, Norwich Union and Pearl Assurance, are still sitting on the fence ahead of Friday's closing date.

Bassett's share yesterday were 145p, little changed on the forecast, against the 152p value of the Avana offer.

Austerity measures would hurt UK businesses

Nigeria set to abandon projects

From John Lawless, Lagos

The Nigerian Government is likely to abandon all those projects which may cost more than £25m to complete.

The impact of such a move will be felt hard by British companies. But this could also reduce the high risk of the Export Credit Guarantee Department in the market. Any projects cancelled will be removed from its total exposure figure.

The department has slipped into the red for the first time this year, and it knows that its financial situation would further deteriorate if Nigeria's economy is not propped up by a standby credit from the International Monetary Fund and a complementary refinancing deal of its massive trade debts.

P & O surprises market with £23m increase in profits

By William Kay, City Editor

The stock market was thrown yesterday by Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's unheralded decision to release its annual results two months earlier than expected. The deferred stock shot up from 30p to 314p in response to excellent profits. But it quickly fell – on the fears that the figures might be strong enough in themselves to ward off a revived takeover bid from Trafalgar House – which in any event is not certain.

Mr Jeffrey Sterling, P & O chairman, explained that the announcement had been brought forward with Trafalgar in mind. Last week the Department of Trade and Industry published a report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission which concluded

that such a merger "may not be expected to operate against the public interest". Mr Sterling said: "With the possibility of a bid on the sidelines we want to make certain we had sufficient information and ammunition if it was needed."

P & O's profit before tax has

risen from £33.5m in 1982 to £56.6m last year. Total external revenue was up from £1.222m to £1.314m. Operating costs rose more slowly, from £1.165m to £1.234m. Profits were also boosted by a decline of nearly £9m in interest charges, to £32.8m.

At the after-tax level, there

has been a fall of more than

£1.1m in extraordinary items, to £8.5m. Attributable profit has

leapt from £791,000 to £31m, leaving earnings per unit of

stock more than doubled, from 14p to 28.2p.

The final dividend is 8.5p, making an increase of 25 per cent for the year as a whole. The final payment will be made on May 10, compared with July 1 last year.

The improvement in profits has been achieved despite some continuing weaknesses. Ferries moved from break-even into a £200,000 loss. Associates' bulk shipping profits fell from £1.3m to £5.5m.

There has been a dramatic fall in P & O's debt-equity ratio, thanks largely to Falco, the oil trading operation which Mr Sterling is thinking of selling.

A hidden windfall has come from an actuarial revaluation of the group pension fund. This

has produced a substantial surplus, and there is a £3m credit back to the company for 1982, followed by £4m in 1983 and subsequently.

Crisis closed at their low for the day, as well as Wall Street opened sharply down, by the decision of Continental Illinois Bank to raise its prime rate by a half per cent to 11 1/2 per cent.

This move by the American banks had been widely predicted in London after increased pressure on United States interest rates recently. As a result, the FT Index fell by 11.2 to 883.1.

Shares slip from peak

The equity market panned for breath yesterday, after last week's record-breaking run, with share prices losing ground as profit-taking developed.

Prices closed at their low for the day, as well as Wall Street opened sharply down, by the decision of Continental Illinois Bank to raise its prime rate by a half per cent to 11 1/2 per cent.

This move by the American banks had been widely predicted in London after increased pressure on United States interest rates recently. As a result, the FT Index fell by 11.2 to 883.1.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1109.7 down 18.8

High: 1125.9; Low: 1109.7

FT Index: 883.1 down 11.2

FT Gilts: 83.10 down 0.23

FT All Share: 524.10 down 4.79

Bargains: 31.525

Bankers: 11.39 down 0.2

New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1173.16 down 11.2

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,479.80 up 8.16

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1170.3 up 39.66

Amsterdam: 158.9 down 2.0

Sydney: AD Index 738.8 up 4.8

Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1032.2 down 6.7

Brussels: General Index 145.02 up 0.37

Paris: CAC Index 182.6 up 1.3

Zurich: SKA General 308.0 down 1.1

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling: \$1.4445 down 25pts

Index 80.0 down 0.1

DM 3.7975 up 0.0075

Fr 11.6850 down 0.0075

Yen 326.00 down 1.0

Dollar: Index 127.2 up 0.5

DM 2.6275 up 0.0015

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4930

Dollar DM 2.6317

INTERNATIONAL

ECU £0.5875/588

SDR £0.7314/361

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:

Bank base rates 8%

Finance house base rate 9%

Discount market loans week fixed 9%

3-month interbank 8% - 8%

Euro-currency rates:

3-month £0.70% - 10%

3-month DM 5% - 5%

3-month Fr 15% - 15%

US rates

Legal Appointments

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Conveyancing Solicitor

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A major oil company wishes to appoint a Conveyancing Solicitor in its Legal Department in central London.

Applications are invited from solicitors with at least two years' post qualification experience, and preferably with a law degree. The preferred age is 25-30.

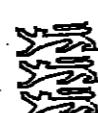
The job requires the ability to handle a variety of conveyancing work connected with the Company's marketing activities in the UK, and related matters. The successful applicant must also have business acumen, drive and initiative.

Salary and benefits will fully reflect the responsibility of the position.

Please write, giving details of age, qualifications, experience and present salary (as well as telephone number, if convenient) to: Confidential Reply Service, Ref. AS/25, Austin Knight Advertising Limited, London W1A 1DS.

Applications are forwarded to the client concerned, therefore companies in which you are not interested should be listed in a covering letter to the Confidential Reply Supervisor.

**Austin
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Salary circa £16,000

A vacancy will arise in the Law Drafting Section of the States Greffe early in 1985 and it is desired to make an appointment during the autumn or 1984 to provide an adequate hand-over period.

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Applicants should be over 35 years of age and should be qualified either as a Barrister or Solicitor, with at least ten years practical legal experience, five years of which should have been spent in the field of legislative drafting. The post will be on a contract basis for a period of five years.

Application form and job description available from States Personnel Department, Cyril Le Marquand House, P.O. Box 600, The Parade, St. Helier, Jersey C.I. Telephone 0534 79111 Ext 135. Closing date 10th April 1984.

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Norton, Rose, Botterell & Roche

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S.J. Berwin & Co wish to recruit young solicitors who have recently qualified, for its commercial department. The work will appeal to able and energetic solicitors with a good academic background is demanding and lively and covers banking, intellectual property and EEC law. The positions are suitable both for newly qualified solicitors and those with two to three years experience since qualification, in a firm where career prospects and terms of employment are excellent.

Applications will be treated in strict confidence, and applicants should write with full CV to:

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A recently qualified solicitor or barrister is sought to join the legal department of Photograin Ltd. As assistant to the Manager - Legal & Business Affairs, the successful candidate will be involved with the preparation of agreements, administration of artist contracts and all day-to-day business.

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Please send a detailed c.v. to Veronica Spicer, Personnel Officer, Photograin Limited, 50 New Bond Street, London W1. Tel. 01-491 4610.

phonogram

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Please write to Derek Grant, Recruitment Manager at:

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c. £20,000 + car

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The chambers are able to be flexible in negotiating the starting salary—a guide to which is indicated above—and the position will carry excellent prospects.

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International Computers Limited, Europe's leading computer and information technology company, requires a well-qualified barrister or solicitor to join the ICL Group's head office legal team based in Putney, London.

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The work of the ICL Group's legal team covers a broad range of company and commercial work including international commercial agreements, EEC law, competition law, employment law, joint ventures, acquisitions and disposals and the law of intellectual property. Candidates must have—or be able and willing rapidly to acquire—experience and expertise in all or most of these areas.

The key requirement is the ability to bring sound legal skills to bear on the activities of a complex international high technology business in a professional but practical fashion.

Salary will be up to £14,000.

Please send details of qualifications and experience to John Llewellyn-Davies, Personnel Manager, at International Computers Limited, ICL House, Putney, London SW15 1SW (telephone 01-788 772 ext. 2666).

ICL

We should be talking to each other.

Hoggett Bowers

Executive Selection Consultants

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High Court Experience
North Buckinghamshire,
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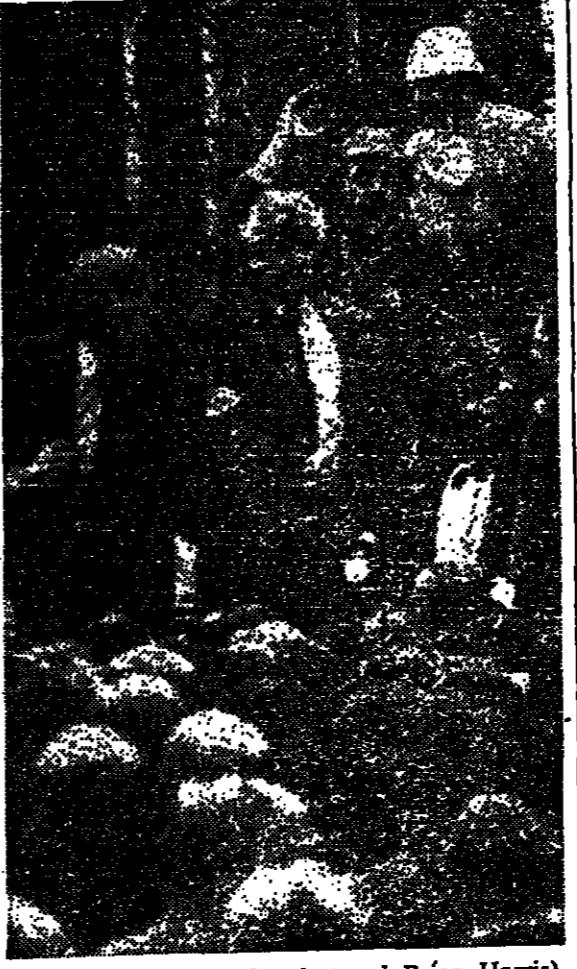
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Picket lines calmer as police blanket coalfield



Nottinghamshire miners going to work, as pickets clashed with police at Barnsley, and officials tried to calm the crowd (Photograph: John Manning and Brian Harris).

By Barrie Clement and Craig Seton

A warning of the scale of conflict to come if the National Coal Board goes ahead with contempt proceedings against the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers was made yesterday as scuffles broke out among 1,000 miners assembled outside the union headquarters in Barnsley.

The militant pitmen, from Britain's largest coalfield, where all collieries are strike-bound, gathered to prevent court officials seizing union funds.

The demonstrators, who twice broke through police lines to kick out at photographers, dispersed when they heard that the Board had won an adjournment of contempt proceeding.

A police spokesman said that most demonstrators were "jocular and good-natured".

Meanwhile, outside pits in the second-largest coalfield, Nottinghamshire, policemen drawn from all over the country, outnumbered pickets by at least three to one. At Harworth Colliery, where the first violence erupted last week, there were 3,000 policemen and 30 pickets.

The massive police operation

and an instruction for the union's Yorkshire area executive to "cool it", resulted in peaceful picketing on the whole, with just five arrests.

All 25 Nottinghamshire pits were working and most men crossed picket lines manned by groups of between five and 120 miners largely from Yorkshire and South Wales.

Police guarded most major roads connecting the counties with instructions to order pickets back if they suspected there could be a breach of the peace. About three thousand policemen were billeted in and around the county.

On Sunday a delegate meeting at the union's Nottinghamshire headquarters decided to resume work and call for a national ballot on the stoppage over pit closures.

A contingent of Welshmen outside Thoresby colliery, Britain's most productive pit, were surprised to see their Nottinghamshire colleagues cross picket lines.

One said: "We have never seen anything like this. They would never cross picket lines in South Wales." Welsh miners voted against a strike but were "picketed out".

At a peaceful picket outside Harworth colliery, Mr Melvin Smith, aged 25, had walked five miles from his pit at Rossington, to call on his colleagues not to work. "We are not trying to stop them going in. We are just asking them to back us", he said.

Union leaders in Derbyshire overruled last week's slender vote by their members not to strike and brought eight pits to a standstill.

Mr Gordon Butler, acting area secretary, said the executive has decided to remove 41 votes cast by men in rescue stations, and other areas not directly involved in the closure issue. That turned a majority of 16 against a strike into one of 11 in favour.

Mr Butler protested at the "flying police" in the area. He said: "The Nottinghamshire area is to all intents and purposes a police state, and our members do not feel we require the protection of police working under a law we oppose."

"If we did not have control of the situation we would be handing it to the police. In view of the prospect of man against man the solution was a strike declaration."

Coal board pulls back from court

Continued from page 1

The Derbyshire miners' executive voted 12 to 2 yesterday to join the stoppage after reassessing the local vote. By excluding small private mines, rescue stations and laboratories, they decided that there was a majority of 11 for a strike.

In Lancashire, where most men went in to work most coal production stopped in the afternoon as men at the Bickerstaffe-Parsonage pit complex, the Golborne mine and Parkside pit became reluctant to cross Yorkshire picket lines.

Production at Point of Ayr Colliery in North Wales also stopped after flying pickets appeared.

The Kent area of the NUM was preparing last night to take legal action against the police who stopped miners in the Dartford tunnel on the way to other coalfields on Sunday.

Leading article page 13

Britain stands firm at EEC summit

Continued from page 1

President Mitterrand, who kept the discussions moving, appeared to be a little concerned by Mrs Thatcher's tone. "We have all come here to make compromises", he said to the meeting at one point. "Any one who has not come to the table to make compromises should have stayed at home."

One diplomat who observed the British Prime Minister found her "stiff, hard and abrasive".

Mr Paul Schutler, the Danish Prime Minister, gained a very negative view of Britain's negotiating position. During a break he told journalists: "It looks as though Mrs Thatcher has only an extremely small will to give the necessary concessions. The British way of negotiation is disappointing and not very European."

But there were signs that President Mitterrand was well aware that a permanent system for enforcing control of the Community expenditure is a

British demand which cannot be side-stepped. He told his colleagues that it was important to find a balance between budgetary discipline and the increase in spending which other members all want.

Although the British Government, to its annoyance, was still being seen yesterday as out of step with its partners, the Irish too found themselves isolated.

Dr Garret FitzGerald, The Taoiseach, has found little sympathy so far for his demand that Ireland should be allowed to go on increasing its milk production without restraint.

His best hope would seem to be that if the major problems are settled the others will go on increasing its milk production without restraint.

His best hope seems to be that if the major problems are settled the others will go on increasing its milk production without restraint.

For all these reasons, as well as the age-old prejudices and

Letter from Brussels

Britain remains a Euro-outsider

The Belgian had an old, lined face pierced by two washed blue eyes which had seen his country twice occupied in war. The discreet purple rosette of his Order of Leopold gave his words an added authority.

"The trouble with the British", he said, "is that they have never been conquered. They do not understand what it means to live in fear of an occupying army. They do not know how the soul of a nation changes when that happens".

The conversation had turned, as it inevitably seems to in Brussels these days, to the crisis facing the EEC. In this one-company town it is difficult, if not impossible, to sustain a conversation for long without talking shop.

Mention the British case or Mrs Thatcher and the conversation can turn nasty. "If you go on like this you will wreck it", said the man with the washed blue eyes. "You just don't seem to realize that it has brought us peace."

Between the wars, he explained, nobody ever spoke of the Germans. "For us they were just the *sauvages* *Boches*." But after the last war he could not remember his countrymen talking of Germans in that way. They had become partners, all of whom live in a nervous awe of the Iron Maiden".

Yesterday's Marplan opinion poll proved that it was not only the French who felt that way. This showed Britain as easily the least constructive nation in Europe, while the West Germans appeared to be everyone's favourites.

A rival Gallup poll showed that only one Briton in four would now vote to stay inside the EEC, even though Mrs Thatcher claims that the last general election put the question of Britain's membership out of court.

The opinion poll is a useful weapon to the British leaders, because she can, and doubtless will, brandish it as proof that she cannot accept a deal which the British Parliament, as representative of the people, would reject.

Viscount Davignon showed that he understood this problem. "Mrs Thatcher has an enormous internal political problem, the British budget contribution", he conceded.

"She is a European of the second generation, with a pride in Europe, in its autonomy and capacity to act. I wouldn't say she is motivated by the classic European tradition, but I believe that she would prefer it to work."

Ian Murray

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace, 11.

The Duke of Edinburgh attends the annual general meeting of the Central Council of Physical Recreation at Fishmongers' Hall, EC4, 11; and later, as president, the Paediatric Research Unit at Guy's Hospital Medical School, SE1, 4.45.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends a reception with music given in aid of the Aldeburgh

Foundation at St. James's Palace, 7.55.

Princess Margaret attends a concert at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' Woodland Bird Survival Campaign, 7.20.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron, visits the Camphill Village Trust, Newnham, Gloucestershire, 11.30; and later visits the National Star Centre for Disabled Youth at Guy's Hospital Medical School, SE1, 4.45.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends a reception with music given in aid of the Aldeburgh

TV top ten

National top 10 television programmes in the week ending March 11, 1984

ITV
1 *It'll Be Alright On The Night*, LWT, 16.00
2 *Coronation Street* (Wed), Granada, 16.45
3 *Day Trips*, Yorkshire, 15.40m
4 *Minder*, Thames, 15.10m
5 *Thames*, Channel 4 (Mon), Granada, 15.00m
6 *3-2-1*, Yorkshire, 13.00m
7 *This Is Your Life*, Thames, 12.05m
8 *Top of the Pops*, BBC, 12.05m
9 *Flying High*, Thames, 12.05m (ends March 11)
10 *Point Blank*, ITV, 12.05m

BBC 1
1 *Dales*, 10.25m
2 *A Question of Sport*, 10.15m
3 *Some Like It Hot*, BBC, 9.35m
4 *Five Fix It*, 9.30m
5 *That's Life*, 9.10m
6 *Top of the Pops*, 8.05m
7 *Goodbye Paradise*, 8.30m
8 *Flying High*, 8.30m
9 *Holiday*, 8.30m
10 *The Living Planet*, 9.40m
11 *Star Games*, 9.55m

BBC 2
1 *Treasure Hunt*, 9.00m
2 *Brookside* (Wed), 2.25m
3 *Cheers*, 2.20m
4 *Hearts of Stone*, 2.45m
5 *The Lady Is A Tramp*, 1.90m
6 *The Crown*, 1.75m
7 *Songs*, 1.65m
8 *Hearts of Stone*, 1.60m
9 *Gardener Jon*, 1.60m
10 *Star Games*, 1.55m

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